GMA, FVR friends again; he wants her to run in 2004

Story on Page A2

Mathematician computes formula for marriage

TAMA ANG COMPUTATION!
MALI! MALI!

LONDON—You can now calculate your way to a happy marriage.

A mathematician says he can predict with almost total accuracy which newly wed couples will enjoy a happy marriage—using two lines of algebra.

MATHEMATICIAN/ A6

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

Is a law firm going after Camacho's neck?

By Gil C. Cabacungan

"THEY have not asked me and besides they are not the appointing power."

This was the terse comment of Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho to queries about rumors that he was on the way out, allegedly because of the machinations of a law firm reputed to be close

IS A/ A6

email: feedback@inquirer.com.ph Saturday, August 9, 2003 ★★★ 68 pages / 8 sections / vol. 18 / no. 242 P15 website: www.inq7.net

Rebellion charges filed versus Laarni

PDI PHOTO FILE

"LIKE me, she could not do much but cry," says ex-President Estrada on the case of Laarni Enriquez.

Estrada: My family and friends are really the gov't's targets

By Philip C. Tubeza and Armand Nocum

THE INVESTIGATION into the July 27 mutiny has literally led lawmen to the front door of deposed President Joseph Estrada.

One of his mistresses, Laarni Enriquez, was charged at the Department of Justice yesterday after the mutineers allegedly used Enriquez's townhouse in Mandaluyong as a staging area for their revolt.

On July 30, Estrada allegedly asked the key government witness in the case against Enriquez, Liezel Magpoc, to defer the submission of her affidavit to the authorities because his camp "had thought of something."

This was learned yesterday after the police and the Department of Interior and Local Government charged Enriquez, engineer Romy Escalona, a Jane Doe alias "Ma'am," a John Doe alias "Mayor," and several other John and Jane Does with rebellion and illegal possession of firearms and explosives.

The caretakers of the townhouse compound at 461 J.B. Vargas St., Bagong Silang, Mandaluyong, had been allegedly told to leave the place on orders of "Ma'am" and "Mayor" before the rebel soldiers came to occupy it. The authorities are still trying to determine Ma'am and Mayor's identities.

Reached for comment, Estrada said he had lost all hope of getting justice from the Macapagal administration.

"*Bahala sila* (Oh, they can do what they want)," said an exasperated Estrada, when asked how he felt about Enriquez possibly going to jail on rebellion charges.

He said it was now apparent that his family and friends were the government's targets as it goes after people supposedly behind the July 27 coup attempt.

"Either one of them is related to me," he said of Enriquez and former Presidential Management Staff head Ramon Cardenas, who was also charged with rebellion.

Homes belonging to Enriquez and Cardenas were allegedly used as safehouses by the rebel soldiers.

Estrada said former Immigration chief Rufus Rodriguez and former Fiscal Jose Flaminiano will handle Laarni's case. They have 10 days to file their replies before the court.

According to Estrada, he talked with Laarni by phone after the case was filed and she was crying.

"Like me, she cannot do much except cry," he said. "From the very start, this unconstitutionally placed regime has been

REBELLION/ A15

GMA lauds military but orders probe of Edris' death

By Juliet Labog-Javellana and Michael Lim Ubac

A HUE and cry has erupted regarding the capture and killing of Abdulmukim Ong Edris, with an opposition lawmaker charging that the alleged Abu Sayyaf bandit had been summarily executed.

Quoting his "contacts" in Lanao del Norte, Sen. John Osmeña yesterday aired the belief that Edris had been "eliminated" to prevent him from revealing who were behind his escape and that of Fathur Rohman Al-Ghozi and another suspected Abu Sayyaf bandit from Camp Crame last month.

But Lt. Gen. Rodolfo Garcia, Armed Forces vice chief of staff, denied this at a press briefing.

Garcia claimed that Edris and his companion, Mahmoud Ismael, an alleged leader of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front, were killed Thursday afternoon in Barangay Bangaan in Sultan Naga Dimaporo, Lanao del Norte, after they tried to wrest away the firearms of their escorts.

Asked if Edris was the victim of a rubout, he said: "I would right away dismiss that.

"Based on reports that have been given, there is no reason to doubt that Edris tried to get away after excusing himself to attend to his personal necessity... [and that he tried] to grab the firearms of who were [there] at that time and, as a consequence, he was shot."

In Malacañang, President Macapagal-Arroyo lauded the AFP Southern Command for the killing of Edris. But in the same breath, she ordered an investigation into the matter.

GMA/ A16

BODIES of evidence: Abdulmukim Edris and Mahmoud Ismael, deputy MILF commander in Lanao del Norte. Were they silenced to stop them from telling all?

RICHEL UMEL/PIO LGU LANAO DEL NORTE

If they took out noodles, why leave expensive gear

Fe Zamora, *INQ7.net* and TJ Burgonio

THEY even brought out the instant noodles to the last pack when the Scout Rangers who occupied the Oakwood apartments "returned to barracks" after their 20-hour mutiny.

A pack costs less than P10.

So why would they leave behind communications equipment allegedly worth a total of P30 million?

This is a question that some intelligence officers have raised.

"The Rangers will not leave behind those equipment. Or anything that would be of use to them, if it really belongs to them," another intelligence officer told INQ7.net.

The officer told the INQUIRER that when Rangers go on operation, they don't leave things behind, even candy wrappers. "They are very thorough," he explained.

Citing his own intelligence report, the officer said the communications equipment were found in a room at Oakwood that was never occupied by the rebel soldiers.

Two days after the July 27 mutiny, Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes and AFP Chief of Staff Gen. Narciso Abaya led re-

IF THEY/ A16

Doublespeak on double jeopardy

By Philip C. Tubeza
Armand N. Nocum
and Juliet L. Javellana

WILL the government please speak with one voice?

A day after Justice Undersecretary Ricardo Paras said he believed the Magdalo mutineers were facing double jeopardy, government officials offered multiple viewpoints.

Justice Secretary Simeon Datumanong said civilian courts should try the rebel soldiers, the acting Ombudsman said the Department of Justice did not have jurisdiction over the case, a National Bureau of Investigation official said double jeopardy was not at all present—and Malacañang said the DOJ should coordinate with the military's Judge Advocate General's Office.

Datumanong said civilian courts should be the ones to try the rebel soldiers for the charge of coup d'etat, while

DOUBLESPEAK/ A15

Palace wants joint Senate-House investigation

By Juliet Labog-Javellana and Christine O. Avendaño

AFTER agreeing to allow the leaders of the July 27 mutiny to testify at the Senate, Malacañang yesterday expressed the "wish" that the hearing would be held in Camp Aguinaldo, and jointly between the two chambers of Congress.

According to President Macapagal-Arroyo, there should be no doubt as to Malacañang's willingness to help the Senate and the House in their inquiries by making the mutineers available to testify.

"The only standing issue is whether the hearing should be held in the Senate or in the venue of detention," she said in a statement. "I am sure this can be resolved before the scheduled hearing. This is a matter of safeguarding lives and national security."

Ms Macapagal issued her statement a day after Executive Secretary Alberto Romulo, acting on her behalf, wrote Senate President Franklin Drilon to say that Malacañang would allow the mutiny leaders to testify so long as this would be

PALACE/ A6

ANTI-GRAFT MOVE

Procurement of military supplies now DBM's job

By Philip C. Tubeza

TO HELP stamp out corruption in the Armed Forces, the Department of Budget and Management will now handle the procurement of AFP supplies, the head of the Presidential Management Staff said on Thursday. Only the purchase of weapons will be handled directly by the AFP.

"From now on, DBM will handle the bidding and procurement of AFP supplies. Not the weaponry because they don't have the expertise for that, but supplies. At least initially, that would be the scope," PMS Secretary Ricardo Saludo said at the Port Users Confederation conference at the Traders Hotel.

"(Defense) Secretary (Angelo) Reyes was quite happy to just get it out of the hands of the AFP because the AFP itself, I mean they're soldiers, they're not really bureaucrats. So they would like to just focus on military work and let the bureaucrats handle the bureaucratic stuff," Saludo said.

He said the innovation was in response to concerns raised by the disgrun-

PROCUREMENT/ A16

SINGING IN THE RAIN: Residents of Ma. Clara Street in Sampaloc, Manila, carry on with their usual activities despite knee-deep floods caused by heavy rains that pounded Metro Manila. *(Story in Metro)*

ERIK

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Western sections of Luzon and Visayas will experience cloudy skies with occasional rains. The rest of the country will have partly cloudy to cloudy skies with isolated rainshowers and thunderstorms.

SOURCE: PAGASA

COMPILED BY: RAY LEYESA, PDI RESEARCH/08/09/03

Metro Manila	Cloudy with Rains	Iloilo/Bacolod	Partly Cloudy
Baguio	Cloudy with Rains	Roxas	Partly Cloudy
Tuguegarao	Partly Cloudy	Cebu	Partly Cloudy
Laoag	Cloudy with Rains	Tacloban	Partly Cloudy
Clark Zone	Cloudy with Rains	Gen. Santos	Partly Cloudy
Tagaytay	Cloudy with Rains	Zamboanga	Partly Cloudy
Legazpi	Cloudy with Rains	Cagayan de Oro	Partly Cloudy
Calapan	Cloudy with Rains	Davao	Partly Cloudy

E-mail: pr_news@inquirer.com.ph

Second FrontPage

GMA, FVR friends again

RAMOS in Singapore

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo and former President Fidel V. Ramos have moved swiftly to patch up any differences that may have arisen from statements made by the incumbent as to why the Philippines is perennially plagued by coups.

"The President talked with the former President this morning," Malacañang spokesperson Ignacio Bunye told reporters Friday. "It was a talk between friends and allies. We believe the matter has been settled."

Ramos, who is visiting Singapore, earlier Friday urged Ms Macapagal to stand for next year's presidential elections, saying her effective handling of the July 27 military mutiny has given her the "moral high ground."

But on Thursday, Ramos had reacted strongly after Ms Macapagal appeared to blame him for the spate of military rebellions that have dogged the country since the late 1980s.

Ms Macapagal had said in a speech to Southeast Asian finance ministers on Wednesday that "the resurgence of mutinies can be traced in part to a reluctance to enforce justice against military adventurism."

Foiling coups

In the '80s, Ramos, first as armed forces chief of staff and later as defense secretary, foiled seven military rebellions against the government of Corazon Aquino that left hundreds dead.

But in 1995, three years after he was elected President, Ramos signed a peace settlement with the military rebels granting the mutineers blanket amnesty, contrary to the recommendation of the Davide Commission that had been formed to investigate the coup attempts to prosecute the guilty parties.

Ramos said Thursday that prosecution was among the options considered by the Aquino administration then, but the government decided that the need to establish peace and unity was more important as Manila opened peace talks with communist as well as Muslim separatist rebels.

Opposition Sen. Gregorio Honasan, an ex-army colonel who led many of the coup attempts against Aquino, has been accused by the government of being one of the masterminds of the July 27 mutiny against Ms Macapagal.

'No word war'

Lakas-CMD spokesperson Heherson Alvarez said the issue between the President and Ramos was not a "word war" but a historical dialogue.

"They are both addressing history and we will let history make the verdict," he said.

Bunye said the issue was settled yesterday morning after the President talked to Ramos in a phone call.

"The criticism has already been settled and they talked in the spirit of being friends and allies," said Bunye, who did not disclose details of the discussion.

President Macapagal's effective handling of the recent military rebellion has given her the "moral high ground" to run in next year's elections, Ramos said in Singapore.

He said in an interview with reporters he felt that Ms Macapagal should reverse a pledge she made in late 2002 not to stand for election in May 2004 for the sake of the national interest.

"I have been one of those who have been pushing her to go for it in 2004," said Ramos, who was president in 1992-98.

Strongest candidate

"I myself feel that she is the strongest candidate from our party [Lakas-CMD] and from the coalition for President," he said.

Ramos said Macapagal "does not have to go back to square one in the learning curve to learn the business of being President."

"After her effective handling of that military protest . . . she now has gained the moral high ground. So positively, she can push for her candidacy," he said.

The military mutiny ended without bloodshed less than 24 hours after it began after the rebel soldiers failed to muster popular support. *With AFP reports*

No state of rebellion in Charter, says DOJ

By Philip C. Tubeza

JUSTICE Secretary Simeon Datumanong admitted yesterday there is no specific provision in the Constitution which gives the President the power to declare a state of rebellion.

But, he pointed out, the Constitution empowers the President to call on the armed forces to quell a rebellion.

"There is no explicit provision that says the President could declare a state of rebellion. The Constitution, however, empowers the President, as the commander-in-chief, to call upon the Armed Forces of the Philippines to quell the violence relative to a rebellion," Datumanong said at a press forum at the Ambassador Hotel in Manila yesterday.

"What the President did in proclaiming a state of rebellion was merely to officially announce that there was a rebellion and she was calling on the AFP to quell it," Datumanong said.

"The primary purpose of the declaration was to apprise the public in general and the armed forces, law enforcement agencies and other key government agencies in particular of the problem so they could undertake the necessary measures to suppress the uprising," he said.

Datumanong also said he believes it is the DOJ that should prosecute the soldiers and government officials who were linked to the July 27 uprising.

He made the statement in reaction to Deputy Ombudsman Margarito Gervacio's assertion that the DOJ investigation into the coup attempt was unconstitutional because this was the job of the Ombudsman.

"We will decide on that. So far the prosecutors believe the DOJ is the proper prosecuting party," Datumanong told the INQUIRER.

He said Chief State Prosecutor Jovencito Zuño had even consulted with Ombudsman Simeon Marcelo before coup d'etat charges were filed against the 321 mutineers before a Makati regional trial court.

Marcoses won't part with $683M yet

By Carlito Pablo

THE HEIRS of the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos are not about to part with their ill-gotten money without a fight.

According to their lawyers, the Marcoses would "still seek redress" before the Swiss Federal Tribunal, claiming the Swiss court has the final say on whether the $683 million Marcos Swiss deposits would be transferred to the Philippine government.

Lawyers Manuel and Michelle Lazaro, counsels for Rep. Imee Marcos and Ilocos Norte Gov. Ferdinand Marcos Jr., said that the Presidential Commission on Good Government's statements that the funds involved may now be released to the government were "untrue and contumacious."

The Marcoses also attacked published reports quoting the Zurich Federal Office of Justice as having said that following the Supreme Court's July 15 decision forfeiting the $683 million in favor of the government, the latter could now dispose of the funds.

The lawyers said this was a "gross misrepresentation, or at best, wishful thinking."

"The Zurich Federal Office of Justice is merely a prosecutorial arm of the Swiss government. It is not the Swiss Federal Tribunal. The Zurich Federal Office cannot speak for the Swiss Federal Tribunal," the lawyers said in a statement issued by the office of Representative Marcos.

They said that the Supreme Court decision is "far from being final, much less executory" and to claim that such has become final is "reckless, if not imprudent."

But PCGG commissioner Ruben Carranza yesterday said the Swiss Federal Office of Justice decision transferring the money to the Philippine government was already final.

From the point of view of the Swiss authorities, a motion for reconsideration of the SC ruling would "not be a hindrance to the transfer of the money," he said.

The $683 million funds held in Swiss foundations were frozen by Swiss authorities and put in escrow at the Philippine National Bank.

The Lazaros said the Marcoses would bring to the attention of the Swiss court the "numerous and various infringements" against its decisions.

While pursuing the fight before the Swiss Federal Tribunal, the Marcoses will also contest at home the July 15 SC ruling that the Marcos heirs "failed to justify the lawful nature of their acquisition" of the Swiss deposits.

The lawyers said Bongbong and Imee have yet to receive copies of the SC decision and intend to file a motion for reconsideration as soon as they receive them.

Their mother, Imelda Marcos, and sister Irene filed a motion for reconsideration last Aug. 5.

The Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines said it was high time the Marcoses admitted their wrongdoing and asked for forgiveness from the Filipino people as there was no denying now that their family had looted the country during the dictatorship. *With a report from Blanche Rivera*

PCGG wants CHR involved in loot sharing

THE PRESIDENTIAL Commission on Good Government said the Commission on Human Rights should involve itself in the issue of how to indemnify the rights abuse victims of the regime of the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos following the release of $683 million in secret Marcos Swiss deposits.

"That's no longer our job," said Ruben Carranza, a commissioner of the Presidential Commission on Good Government charged with the recovery of the ill-gotten wealth of the heirs and cronies of Marcos.

Carranza said he was disappointed at the CHR's failure to involve itself in the debate.

Roughly equivalent to P38 billion, the Marcos funds are intended for the agrarian reform program and to victims of the Marcos regime.

But Congress is still debating how to go about compensating the victims. They are even debating who are eligible for compensation.

Carranza said the CHR should step in and propose a "reliable" process to determine the real victims and how much compensation they are entitled to.

"That's why the CHR's role is important. (But) it's not doing anything at all. Certainly I don't think we should leave it up to Congress totally," he said.

At the House, Rep. Florencio Abad has filed a resolution calling on the National Treasury to establish a "special account" for the $683 million Marcos money to preclude the funds being diverted for other purposes.

Rights abuse victims belonging to the group Selda will insist on a P12-billion compensation package out of the P36 billion Marcos money, according to Selda chair Danilo Vizmanos.

Vizmanos said Selda, which will hold a general assembly at the University of the Philippines tomorrow, said the position affirms Selda's long-time position that the victims get "one-third" of whatever Marcos assets are forfeited.

He clarified that the compensation Selda seeks is to be divided not just among the 9,539 victims that won a class suit against the Marcoses in a US court but to all martial law victims estimated to number up to 120,000. *Dona Pazzibugan, Carlito Pablo and Volt Contreras*

Hollywood Pinoys hailed as 'patriots'

By Jerome Aning

"PATRIOTS."

That's how Tourism Secretary Richard Gordon described the Filipino-American Hollywood celebrities who are in town to attend the 5th CineManila Film Festival.

The visit of actors Lou Diamond Phillips and Tia Carrere, film producer Fritz Friedman and director Gene Cajayon sends the message the country is safe for tourists, Gordon said.

He said the four will also help promote the Department of Tourism's "WOW Philippines" campaign.

"The patriotism that [they] exude for these important endeavors demonstrates how deep their Filipino heritage is imbued in their personalities," Gordon said.

The four, Gordon said, volunteered their services to make a commercial promoting Philippine tourism and a video that would lobby the US Congress to recognize the Filipino veterans of World War II.

This is not the first time Phillips has been to the country. He was in the Philippines in 2000 for the premiere of his film "Bats" on the invitation of then Vice President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo who, as President, also extended the latest invitation to the Hollywood stars.

Born to a Filipino mother and an American father, Phillips has always stressed his Filipino ancestry.

"I have always been proud of my Filipino heritage. In many articles and interviews, I have always emphasized my being half-Filipino. In Hollywood, when I am asked what my ethnic background is, I am always happy to offer up the fact that I have Filipino lineage."

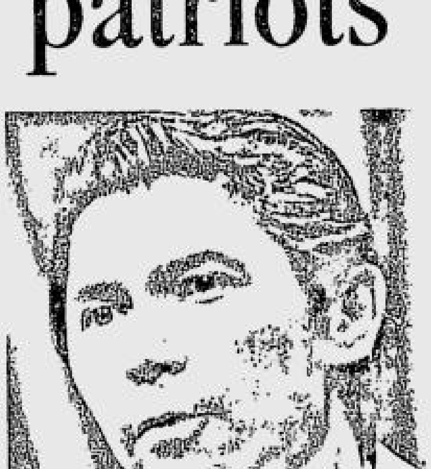
Actress and model Carrere, who is Althea Duhino Janairo in real life, is of Filipino, Chinese and Spanish lineage. She was born in Honolulu, Hawaii but later moved to Toronto, Canada which she considers her hometown.

Director Cajayon, born to a Filipino father and a French-Vietnamese mother, was a student at Loyola Marymount University in Los Angeles when he made his student thesis, a 10-minute short movie called "The Debut."

"The Debut" won the 2001 AMMY Award for Best Independent Feature Film and the 2000 Best Feature Film Award at the San Diego Asian Film Festival.

The short movie depicted the experience of growing up Filipino in America through the eyes of a "white-washed" boy who gets reacquainted with his ethnic culture while dealing with both a tradition-minded father and a romantic infatuation.

TIA CARRERE



LOU DIAMOND PHILLIPS

Producer Friedman, who is a senior vice president of Sony, Colombia and Tri-Star Pictures, is the highest-ranking Filipino-American executive in the US entertainment industry.

He is known for his various philanthropic and civil rights causes, including AIDS and the Filipino World War II veteran's fight for benefits.

Senate to recommend graft raps versus Ramos

By Michael Lim Ubac

THE SENATE is set to recommend the criminal indictment of former President Fidel Ramos and his Cabinet secretaries for approving the Casecnan project in Nueva Ecija which one senator claims to be the most onerous independent power producer (IPP) project ever entered into by the government.

Sen. Sergio Osmeña III, a member of the Senate blue ribbon committee, said the Ramos administration cannot escape liability for agreeing to the allegedly lopsided deal.

The blue ribbon and trade and energy committees yesterday concluded their joint hearings on the project.

Besides Ramos, Osmeña is targeting for prosecution former Cabinet officials Francisco Viray (energy), Roberto Sebastian (agriculture), Apolonio Bautista (National Irrigation Administration administrator), and Guido Alfredo Delgado (National Power Corp. president), among others.

The build-operate-transfer Casecnan multipurpose irrigation and power project was concluded in 1994 to address the power and water crisis then plaguing the country.

The 20-year contract obliges the private consortium, led by the CAL-Energy or California Energy Casecnan Water and Energy Co., to deliver with a guaranteed purchase 150 megawatts of electricity through the NIA and support for the Luzon grid

Rough sailing for Nara

THE CONTROVERSIAL bill which seeks to abolish the Bureau of Internal Revenue and replace it with a National Authority on Revenue Administration (Nara) faces rough sailing in the House of Representatives.

This became apparent yesterday as the bill's leading opponent sought the suspension of budget hearings by the House committee on appropriations for the still non-existent tax collection agency.

In a letter, Rep. Aniceto G. Saludo Jr. (Lakas, Southern Leyte) asked Rep. Rolando Andaya, chairman of the House committee on appropriations, for the suspension of budget hearings appropriating funds for a still to be created revenue collection agency "until all unbiased facts are gathered through fair hearing before the committee on government reorganization."

Saludo, in a statement, said it was "highly-questionable, irregular and scandalous" for scarce public funds to be appropriated by Congress for a non-existent agency that will ultimately privatize revenue collections.

He said the Nara Bill had been exposed in Congress and in the media as a concoction of powerful and influential policy-making group called Agile which is funded by the US Agency for International Development.

Saludo took up the cudgels for the 12,000 BIR employees, citing several reasons, including its unconstitutionality, for opposing the controversial bill

Where there's smoke...

TOURISM Secretary Richard Gordon cannot stop local government units like Makati City from implementing their anti-smoking ordinances, Senate President Pro Tempore Flavier said yesterday.

Flavier was reacting to Gordon's appeal the other day for mayors nationwide to defer the crafting of their respective anti-smoking ordinances until an inter-agency body had come up with the implementing rules and regulations of the recently enacted Tobacco Regulation Act of 2003 or Republic Act no. 9211.

Gordon said he was making the appeal because the Department of Tourism had received several complaints from the entertainment and service industries that business is not well for them because of the confusion brought about by the new tobacco law. He said tourists have been shying away from establishments that do not allow smoking anymore, even in designated areas.

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Paracetamol tab 500 mg	✓ 0.75	2.35	1.60/tab
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Amoxicillin cap. 250 mg	✓ 3.10	8.95	5.85/cap
Amoxicillin cap. 500 mg	✓ 3.70	15.50	11.80/cap
Amoxicillin drops 125 mg/1.25 ml/10 ml	✓ 37.00	80.75	43.75/bot
Amoxicillin susp. 250 mg/5 ml, 60 ml	✓ 49.00	144.00	95.00/bot
Chloramphenicol cap. 500 mg	✓ 3.40	37.75	34.35/cap
Chloramphenicol susp. 125 mg/5 ml 60 ml	✓ 41.40	394.75	353.35/bot
Co-trimoxazole tab (TM-160mg SMZ-800mg)	✓ 2.30	24.00	21.70/tab
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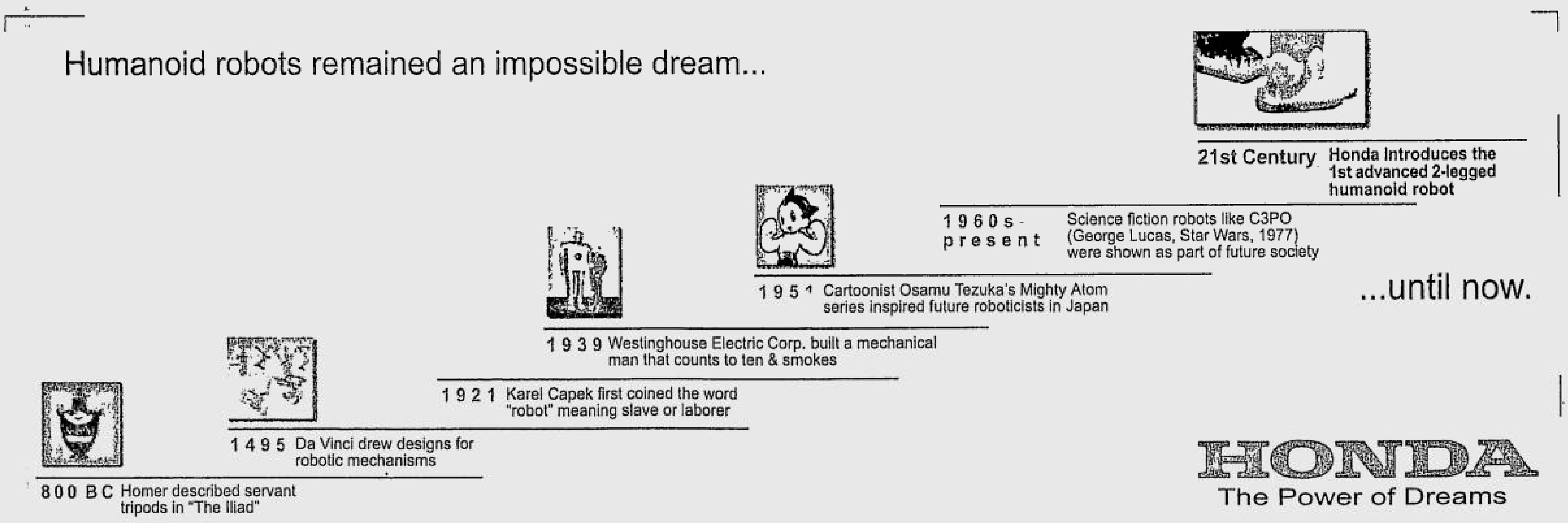

Humanoid robots remained an impossible dream...
21st Century Honda introduces the 1st advanced 2-legged humanoid robot
1960s-present Science fiction robots like C3PO (George Lucas, Star Wars, 1977) were shown as part of future society
1951 Cartoonist Osamu Tezuka's Mighty Atom series inspired future roboticists in Japan
1939 Westinghouse Electric Corp. built a mechanical man that counts to ten & smokes
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Today's WHAT'S NEWS questions:
1. What is 2bU!'s counterpart in INQ7.net?
a. INQ7 money
b. YOU
c. Kapuso Job Market
d. Marketplace
2. Read all about your favorite athletes and teams in...
a. Sports
b. Classifieds
c. Metro
d. Lifestyle
3. She is the newest MTV VJ. Very soon, she will also be writing for Inquirer's Saturday Special Super.
a. KC Concepcion
b. Donita Rose
c. Sarah Meier
d. Belinda Panelo
4. Who are the two American movie stars expected to arrive on Aug. 6 for the 5th Makati Cinemanila Film Festival? (Aug. 1, Entertainment Section)
a. Rob Schneider and Lou Diamond Philips
b. Rob Schneider and Tia Carerre
c. Lou Diamond Phillips and Tia Carerre
d. Rob Schneider and Dean Devlin
5. What garden was featured in Business Friday last Aug. 2 that is located on a hill that overlooks the picturesque San Juanico Strait?
a. Antonio's Garden
b. Sonya's Garden
c. Meteor Garden
d. Marjorie's Garden
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Malaysian cop gets 15 years for rape of Pinay

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A MALAYSIAN policeman has been sentenced to 15 years in jail and ordered to be given 17 whippings for raping a Filipino and an Indonesian woman in a police lock-up, reports said Friday.

Constable Razali Pilen, 27, was found guilty of raping the two women, both illegal immigrants working as prostitutes, in February last year, the New Straits Times said.

He was sentenced to 15 years' jail and 10 strokes of the cane for raping the 23-year-old Filipina and 15 years' jail and seven lashes for raping the 24-year-old Indonesian. The sentences are to run concurrently.

Razali was initially acquitted and discharged last September without his defense being called but another court in April reversed the decision on appeal by prosecution.

The case has grabbed public attention as Razali claimed in his defense that the two victims had seduced him and that his supervisor had also coaxed him into having sex with them.

Judge Mohamed Saman Ramli, in his ruling, said the act was shameful as it had taken place at the man's workplace.

Although the two women were said to be prostitutes, the judge said they still had the right to refuse sex and if there was no consent, it would constitute rape.

"You are handsome... you should have got yourself a girlfriend and not acted like this. The gravity of the offence is increased because you committed the offence in the police station while on duty," he said.

Prosecutors had pressed for the maximum 20 years' jail sentence for Razali for taking advantage of his authority by "oppressing the weak who were at his mercy." *AFP*

Another dreary day

IT'S going to be another dreary day, albeit a little less rainy, for most of the country as the trough of the southwest monsoon continues to affect Northern Luzon.

Pagasa, however, gives hope for better weather the rest of the weekend and at the start of next week as it forecasts gradually improving weather condition in the next three days particularly in the western sections of Luzon and the Visayas.

The weather bureau forecasts cloudy skies with occasional rains in the western sections of Luzon and the Visayas while the rest of the country will have partly cloudy to cloudy skies with isolated rain showers and thunderstorms.

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Disputed Balangiga bell closer to home

By Gerald G. Lacuarta

THE PHILIPPINES has come one step closer to bringing back one of the bells taken as war trophy from the belfry of the Balangiga Church in Samar after a resolution was filed in the United States Congress urging President George W. Bush to authorize its transfer from the F. E. Warren Air Force Base in Wyoming.

Foreign Secretary Blas F. Ople announced this on Thursday as he lauded the US House of Representatives for introducing House Resolution No. 268 which has been referred to the Committee on Armed Services. The resolution was authored by Rep. Bob Filner of California.

"With the introduction of House Resolution 268, members of the US House of Representatives have proven their sensitivity to the shared history and good relations between our two countries," Ople said.

Two of the three so-called Balangiga bells, which bear the emblem of the Franciscan Religious Order with the dates of their manufacture in 1863 and 1889 have been on display at the F.E. Warren Air Force Base in Cheyenne, Wyoming as war trophies bought home by units of the US Armed Forces after a clash with Filipino revolutionaries in Balangiga in 1901.

The third bell that also bears the emblem of the Franciscan Order with the date of its manufacture in 1896 is now in the possession of the 9th US Infantry Regiment in Camp Red Cloud, South Korea.

The ringing of the church bells of Balangiga on Sept. 28, 1901 signaled the outbreak of fighting between Filipinos and the occupying Americans. Forty eight of the 78 US soldiers and 40 Filipinos were killed when guerillas attacked a garrison of Company C, 9th US Infantry in what has been called the "Balangiga Massacre."

Symbol of friendship

Resolution 248 recognizes that Filipino soldiers fought "shoulder to shoulder" with American troops on the battlefields of World War II, Korea and Vietnam, and that the bells of Balangiga "should more properly serve as a symbol of friendship and cooperation and not of unfortunate misunderstanding and conflict."

"The acts of conflict and cruelty that surrounded the bells of Balangiga are not consistent with the friendship and cooperation that have been an integral part of the relationship between the Republic of the Philippines and the United States of America," the resolution stated. The Philippine government, since the administration of former President Fidel Ramos, has been repeatedly requesting of the bells for their historical significance.

While the United States holds supportable legal title to the bells recognizable under international law and has final disposition over the bells of Balangiga, the resolution cited a proposal for both countries to retain an original and a duplicate bell so that they may "mutually share in the heritage that the bells of Balangiga represent."

"The House of Representatives urges the President to authorize the transfer of ownership of one of the bells... to the people of the Philippines as a measure of friendship, good will, and cooperation," said the resolution's final paragraph.

Ople said the return of even just one of the three Balangiga bells would make Filipino veterans happy after over five years of negotiations.

"While there are many reasons why President Bush should visit the Philippines, I am hoping that one of the reasons is to personally turn over one of the bells when he visit this October, although I understand that this might be quite difficult," Ople said.

National Artist Napoleon Abueva, who is designing the Balangiga Encounter Monument, had also expressed hope that Bush will bring back at least one of the three bells.

"I would love to have the bell installed in the belfry of the monument. But the bell should be returned and mounted on the belfry of the Balangiga Church where it belongs," Abueva said in a letter to the INQUIRER.

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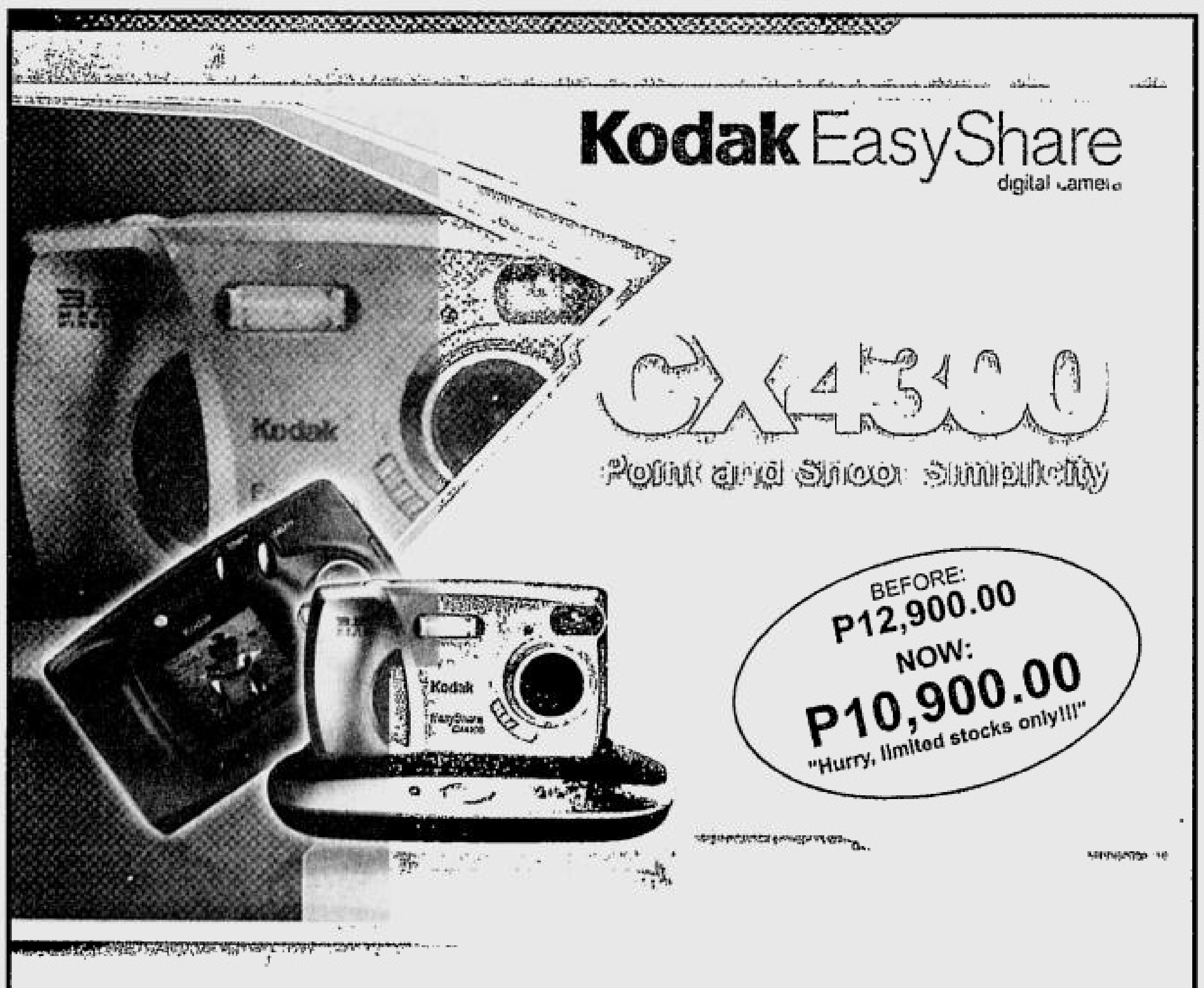

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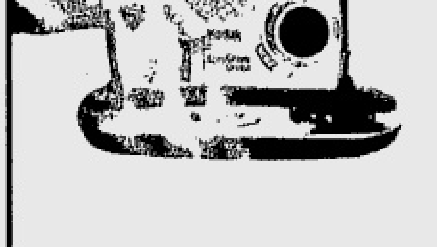

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CIRCULAR NO. 389

Pursuant to the Monetary Board Resolution No. 811 dated June 12, 2003, the following rules and regulations are hereby issued to implement Sections 40 and 41 of Republic Act No. 8791, the General Banking Law of 2000.

The provisions of Section X319 of the Manual of Regulations for Banks and its Subsections are hereby amended, to read as follows:

SECTION X319. REQUIREMENT FOR GRANT OF LOANS AND OTHER CREDIT ACCOMMODATIONS.

The following regulations shall govern loans and other credit accommodations, except those granted to microfinance and small and medium enterprises.

SUBSEC. X319.1. GENERAL GUIDELINES.

Before granting a loan or other credit accommodation, a bank must ascertain that the borrowers, co-makers, endorsers, sureties and/or guarantors are financially capable of fulfilling their commitments to the bank. For this purpose, banks shall obtain adequate information on their credit standings and financial capacities.

SUBSEC. X319.2. PROOF OF FINANCIAL CAPACITY OF BORROWER.

In addition to the usual information sheet about the borrower, banks may require submission of a statement of the borrower's assets and liabilities. Banks shall however, require the following:

1. A copy of the latest Income Tax Return of the borrower and his co-maker, if applicable, duly stamped as received by the Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR); and
2. Except as otherwise provided in other regulations, if the borrower is engaged in business, a copy of the borrower's latest Financial Statements as submitted for taxation purposes to the BIR.

Should the document(s) submitted prove to be spurious or incorrect in any material detail, the bank may terminate any loan or other credit accommodation granted on the basis of said document(s) and shall have the right to demand immediate repayment or liquidation of the obligation. Moreover, the bank may seek redress from the court for any harm done by the borrower's submission of spurious documents.

SUBSEC. X319.3. SIGNATORIES.

Banks shall require that loans and other credit accommodations be made under the signature of the principal borrower and in the case of unsecured loans and other credit accommodations to an individual borrower, at least one co-maker, except when the principal borrower has the financial capacity and a good track record of paying his obligations.

SUBSEC. X319.4. SANCTIONS.

Any violation of the provisions of this Section shall be subject to the sanctions provided under Sections 36 and 37 of R.A. No. 7653 (the New Central Bank Act).

This Circular shall take effect fifteen (15) days after publication in the Official Gazette or in a national newspaper of general circulation.

FOR THE MONETARY BOARD:

(Sgd.) RAFAEL B. BUENAVENTURA
Governor

25 June 2003

RP, China sign pact vs drugs

CHINA and the Philippines have agreed to cooperate in the campaign against illegal drugs, Filipino Foreign Secretary Blas Ople said yesterday.

Interior Secretary Jose Lina flew to Beijing this week for meetings with China's Minister of Public Security Zhou Yongkang, Ople said in a statement.

The two agreed to implement specific measures relating to a 2001 bilateral agreement on narcotics control. *AFP*

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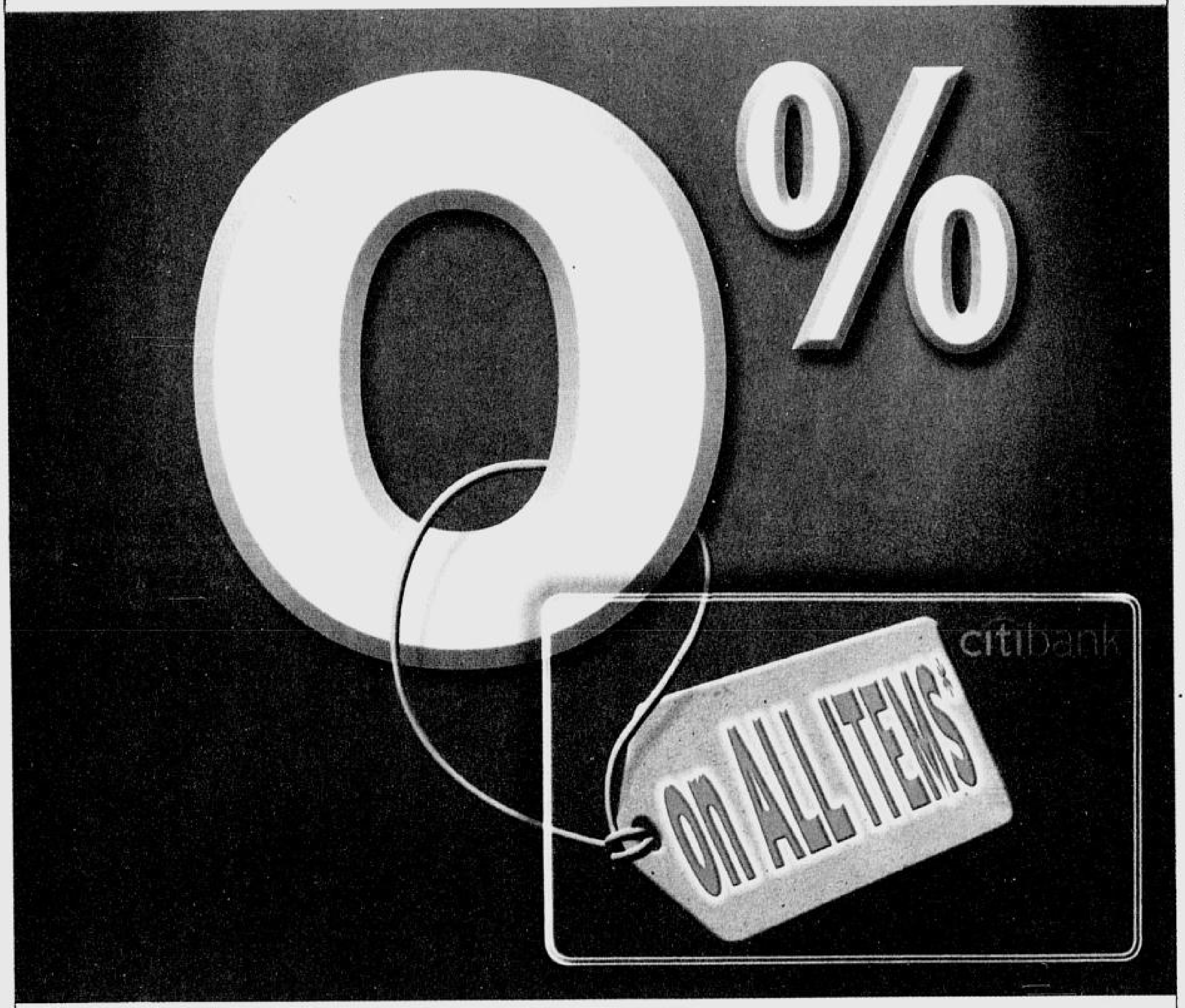

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Palace wants joint Senate-House investigation

From page A1

done in a closed-door session.

Romulo also requested that the Senate hearing scheduled for yesterday be deferred to Aug. 14. But nowhere in his letter did he ask that the hearing be held in Camp Aguinaldo.

Senate Minority Leader Vicente Sotto III yesterday said he did not agree with Malacañang's latest proposal. "They keep on changing their mind," he told the INQUIRER.

Sotto also said he could not understand why Congress should hold a joint inquiry when the two chambers would be passing separate pieces of legislation based on their respective inquiries.

He pointed out that the reason the Senate was conducting the inquiry was in aid of legislation and not to assume the role of a fact-finding body.

Ignacio Bunye invoked the safety of the mutiny leaders in echoing the President's new position.

"We have always said that, of course, bringing them from one point to another constitutes some security problems," Ms Macapagal's spokesperson said at a briefing.

"These problems are being addressed, so if they have to be brought from Camp Aguinaldo [in Quezon City] to the Senate [in Pasay City], that will have to be worked out," he added. "But right now we are still hopeful that eventually the Senate might wish to reconsider the venue and possibly agree to a joint hearing so that there would just be one hearing between the Senate and the House, and this should be done in Camp Aguinaldo."

Bunye, however, said Malacañang was leaving it to the Senate and the House whether they should conduct a joint inquiry.

Trying to hide something

Sotto said he was personally against the rescheduling of the Senate hearing to Aug. 14, as agreed to by Senate President Franklin Drilon.

"[But] we have to abide with [Drilon's] decision because he is the chair of the committee of the whole, and when he made the decision there was not enough time to convene the committee," Sotto said.

Still, Sotto said, the first request of Malacañang would make the public suspicious that they were trying to hide something.

Senators Aquilino Pimentel Jr. and Serge Osmeña, also of the opposition, likewise expressed apprehension over what Drilon had agreed to.

In a phone interview, Pimentel said the delay in the holding of the inquiry was "unwarranted" and "fuels suspicion [of] concerted efforts to prevent the truth from coming out."

Osmeña said there was an apparent attempt of a "cover-up." He said the people had the right to know about the complaints of the junior officers and their motives for mounting the mutiny.

He also said he preferred an "open hearing."

"I don't want Malacañang to have the right to edit whatever will be released," he said.

Senate President Pro Tempore Juan Flavier said he was open to initiating a move to ask the Senate to allow that some information in the closed-door hearing be shared with the public.

He said he was personally for transparency but would abide by Drilon's decision to heed the President's request.

Senate Majority Leader Loren Legarda said that under the rules, the Senate could lift the ban on secrecy on executive sessions by conducting a vote.

"The committee [as a whole] can vote, and if they have the majority vote, we can disclose some portions of the session…" she said.

But she added that she supported Drilon's decision to defer the hearing.

Postpone to Monday

The House committee on national defense has decided to postpone its scheduled resumption of its own hearings on Monday.

Committee chair Rep. Prospero Pichay Jr. (Lakas, Surigao del Sur) made the announcement in the wake of reports that the Senate had acceded to Malacañang's earlier request.

Pichay said the committee would resume its hearings only until the attendance of the junior military officers who led the mutiny at the Oakwood Premier serviced apartments in Makati City could be assured.

"It is pointless for us to hold a hearing this Monday if the attendance of the coup officers cannot be guaranteed," he said. "We have heard all sides except that of the Magdalo group, and to proceed further without hearing from them would be an exercise in futility."

Suspension

Rep. Florencio Abad (LP, Batanes) said Thursday that he and other congressmen were filing a resolution calling for a suspension of the congressional hearings to allow the commission formed by the Palace to conduct and complete its investigation on the mutiny.

Rep. Willie Villarama (Ind., Bulacan) earlier said that the simultaneous hearings being conducted by the House and Senate would only distract government officials as well as the mutiny leaders, whose testimony would be vital to the probe being conducted by the commission chaired by retired Supreme Court Justice Florentino Feliciano.

Villarama also warned of confusion should the House or Senate come up with conclusions contrary to the findings of the commission.

In a statement, Speaker Jose de Venecia urged the Feliciano Commission to "immediately activate its work" in order to "ferret out the mutineers' allies who may continue to threaten the republic." *With a report from Carlito Pablo*

Is a law firm . . .

From page A1

to the First Couple.

The law firm reportedly represents big companies that are asking for accommodations from the Department of Finance.

But presidential spokesperson Ignacio Bunye said the President intends to keep her economic team intact and had no plans whatsoever of replacing its leader, Camacho.

Press reports have been rehashing persistent talk that the former investment banker would soon be replaced by Socioeconomic Planning Secretary Romulo Neri.

Camacho said in an interview that he had not handed in his resignation although he stressed that he served at the pleasure of the President.

He said it did not really matter whether the law firm or any other group wanted him out of the finance department.

"At the end of the day, it will either be my decision or the President's and no one else's," Camacho said.

Rumors have it that Camacho has been under pressure to resign because of his support for anti-corruption "lifestyle checks" of government officials.

Stumbling block

Sources in Malacañang said Camacho was being eased out because he was a major stumbling block to several deals involving Petron Corp., the National Power Corp. and Honda Cars Phil.

He reportedly opposes the bid of oil giant Petron to get another P2 billion worth of tax credits from the finance department on top of the P1 billion it obtained last year.

In the case of Napocor, Camacho has insisted on bidding out the multimillion-peso insurance policy for the state-owned power firm's transmission lines rather than agree to a negotiated contract with a private insurer.

As for Honda, the Japan-based car company apparently wants the finance department to drop charges of back taxes involving more than P1 billion.

Camacho—an investment banker for 22 years, including stints with the foreign banks Bankers Trust and Deutsche Bank, before he joined the Macapagal Cabinet in 2001 as energy secretary—has this week repeatedly denied reports that he would quit.

He laughed when a television news anchor yesterday asked if his departure was imminent.

"I have not tendered my resignation," he said in a live telephone interview.

"I don't have any decision to make right now," he told reporters at last Tuesday's meeting in Manila of finance ministers from Southeast Asia plus China, Japan and South Korea.

"Nobody can predict the future. I serve at the pleasure of the President. Many things happen. I don't expect I will be in government permanently, though it's a question of circumstances and situations that will dictate my stay in government," he said.

Camacho's term is due to end two months after the elections in May 2004, when a new President takes office.

President Macapagal-Arroyo has said she will not run but opinion is split on whether she will reverse course.

No revamp 'til December

Bunye said the President had no plans of revamping the Cabinet at least until December when some of the officials who plan to run in 2004 would have to vacate their posts when they file their candidacy.

Bunye said Camacho continues to enjoy the full trust and confidence of the President.

He said Camacho also enjoyed the respect of the international financial community and has been successful in fulfilling the President's directive to improve revenue collections and crack down on corruption in the Bureau of Internal Revenue and Bureau of Customs.

The budget deficit has narrowed down in the first half this year largely due to the improvement in BIR and BOC collections.

Camacho's department has also filed graft cases against tax evaders and BIR and BOC personnel who failed the ongoing lifestyle checks.

Some of the senior BIR officials were charged after checks showed their houses and cars appeared to be out of line with their modest salaries. *With a report from Reuters*

Mathematician . . .

From page A1

Prof. James Murray says the two formulas he devised have a 94-percent success rate when it comes to forecasting whether a couple will stay together, the Daily Telegraph said.

Good, bad signals

The formulas were calculated during a 10-year study of 700 couples in the United States conducted by Murray, a professor at the University of Washington, Seattle. He and a psychologist observed the couples during a 15-minute conversation when they were newly married.

He presented his findings to a conference in Dundee, Scotland, for the first time on Thursday, the Telegraph said.

A couple's ability to communicate on subjects such as sex, child-rearing or money was measured using a scale that gave positive points for good signals, such as smiles and affectionate gestures, and negative points for bad signals, such as rolling of the eyes, mocking and coldness.

"We used an accepted psychological scoring system to award them points, such as minus three for scorn and plus two for humor," Murray, the author of "Mathematics for Marriage," told the newspaper.

The points were then converted into algebraic terms enabling the study's authors to make divorce projections. The results were fed into two equations—one for the husband and one for the wife.

The couples were checked every two years and the model predicted which marriages failed with almost complete accuracy. *Reuters*

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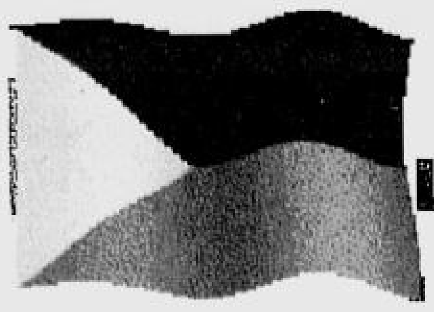

A CALL TO THE FILIPINO PEOPLE

LET US RALLY BEHIND THE PRESIDENT IN THIS MOMENT OF CRISIS

We, concerned citizens of the Philippines, congratulate President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo in overcoming a mutiny of junior military officers without bloodshed, and without damage to property, in less than twenty-four hours.

We commend her for her resolute leadership in creating three Commissions, the first of which is the FELICIANO COMMISSION, which will investigate the grievances of the junior officers; the second to investigate the Davao bombings; and the third to reform the Philippine National Police. We join the Filipino people in expressing our support to the commissioners and trust that they will work swiftly and conclusively in establishing the facts and submitting their recommendations for appropriate action.

But much remains to be done to address the fundamental problems of the Philippines, to restore our confidence in our national ability, to regain our national pride in the community of nations, and most of all, to wage war against the poverty that is being experienced by the majority of Filipinos.

We cannot solve our problems overnight, but we must begin by having Faith in the Filipino, and having Hope in a better future, and that together we will overcome. Let us therefore act proactively and contribute all that we can in the building of our nation.

We appeal to all Filipinos to come to the defense of our democracy. The late Sen. Ninoy Aquino once said, "The Filipino is worth dying for." In this time of crisis, when we must have security and stability, our country needs all of us more than ever to stand united and move forward as one people, under one leadership, and guided by one purpose, the common good.

In just nine months, on May 10, 2004, we will have one of the most crucial general and local elections in Philippine history. We must exercise forthrightly the only viable constitutional mechanism to elect leaders who will represent us and lay the foundation of the future for our children, lest other drastic alternatives come under consideration. Our voters must expect – and demand – that political parties present a comprehensive platform of government and candidates who will carry out such a platform and be accountable for their performance. We must also remove monetary and political considerations as dominant forces in next year's polls.

The Filipino nation, therefore, has a unique appointment with history to forge a new democracy based on participation, substance and accountability to take root and prosper.

Let us stay committed to the vision of a strong Philippines, which demands a strong Filipino people, hardworking and innovative in our fields of endeavor, dedicated to the preservation of the ideals of our republic, and determined to eradicate poverty now and in the future.

Former President Corazon C. Aquino
Republic of the Philippines

Ricardo Cardinal J. Vidal, D.D.
Archbishop of Cebu

Former President Fidel V. Ramos
Republic of the Philippines

Archbishop Fernando R. Capalla, D.D
Incoming Pres.,Catholic Bishops Conf. of the Phil.

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Incoming Pres., Chamber of Comm. of the Phil.

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Dr. Alfredo R. A. Bengzon
Dean, Ateneo Grad. Sch of Bus.

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President, Kalayaan College

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Fmr Secretary, Dept.of Sci. & Tech.

Senator Vicente T. Paterno

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Men in the Philippines

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Chairperson, Code-NGO

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Chair, Kapisanan ng mga Broadkasters sa Pil.

Mr. Paolo Benigno Aquino IV
Chairman, The National Youth Commission

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President, Phil. Life Insurance Assn.

Mr. Cesar V. Purisima
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Mr. Roberto de Ocampo
Former Secretary of Finance

Atty. Ricardo P. Guevara

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Archbishop of Cagayan de Oro

Mother Maria Clarita Balleque, RVM
Pres, Assn. of Major Religious Superiors
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Ms. Esperanza Ocampo
President, Phil. Gov't Emp. Assn.

Mr. Raul T. Concepcion
Chair, Consumer & Oil Price Watch

Mr. Edgardo Limon
Pres., Financial Exec Inst. of the Phil.

Ms. Bing Primicias-Van Tooren
President, Philippine Computer Society

Mr. Oscar M. Lopez
Chair & CEO, First Phil. Holdings

Mr. Miguel G. Belmonte
President & CEO, The Philippine Star

Mr. Cesar Buenaventura

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Christian Life Community Of The Philippines

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Chair, Islamic Mvmnt on Electoral Reform
for Good Govt.

Sister Rosanne Mallilin, SPC
Sec-Gen, NASSA-Votecare

Mr. Jose de Jesus
Chairman, Spirit of Edsa Foundation

Please send your replies and reactions to the NAMFREL National Secretariat, 6F RFM Corporate Center, Pioneer St. cor. Sheridan, Mandaluyong City, fax us at 634-5604, 631-0078 or 631-0141, or e-mail us at namfrel@rfm.com.ph cc: joecon@rfm.com.ph

ISSN 0116-2642
INQUIRER
Vol. 18 No. 242

OPINION

Email: feedback@inquirer.com.ph website: http://www.inq7.net

THE PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER, INC. has its business and editorial offices at
•Chino Roces Ave corner Yague and Mascardo Sts., Makati City
•P.O. Box 2353 Makati Central Post Office 1263 Makati City
•Our telephone numbers are 897-8808 connecting all departments
•Editorial Fax 897-4793 / 897-4794 •Advertising 897-4807
•Circulation 527-3342 / 527-3348 / 528-0183 / 528-0186 and 528-0213 / Fax: 528-02-34.

Publisher ISAGANI YAMBOT
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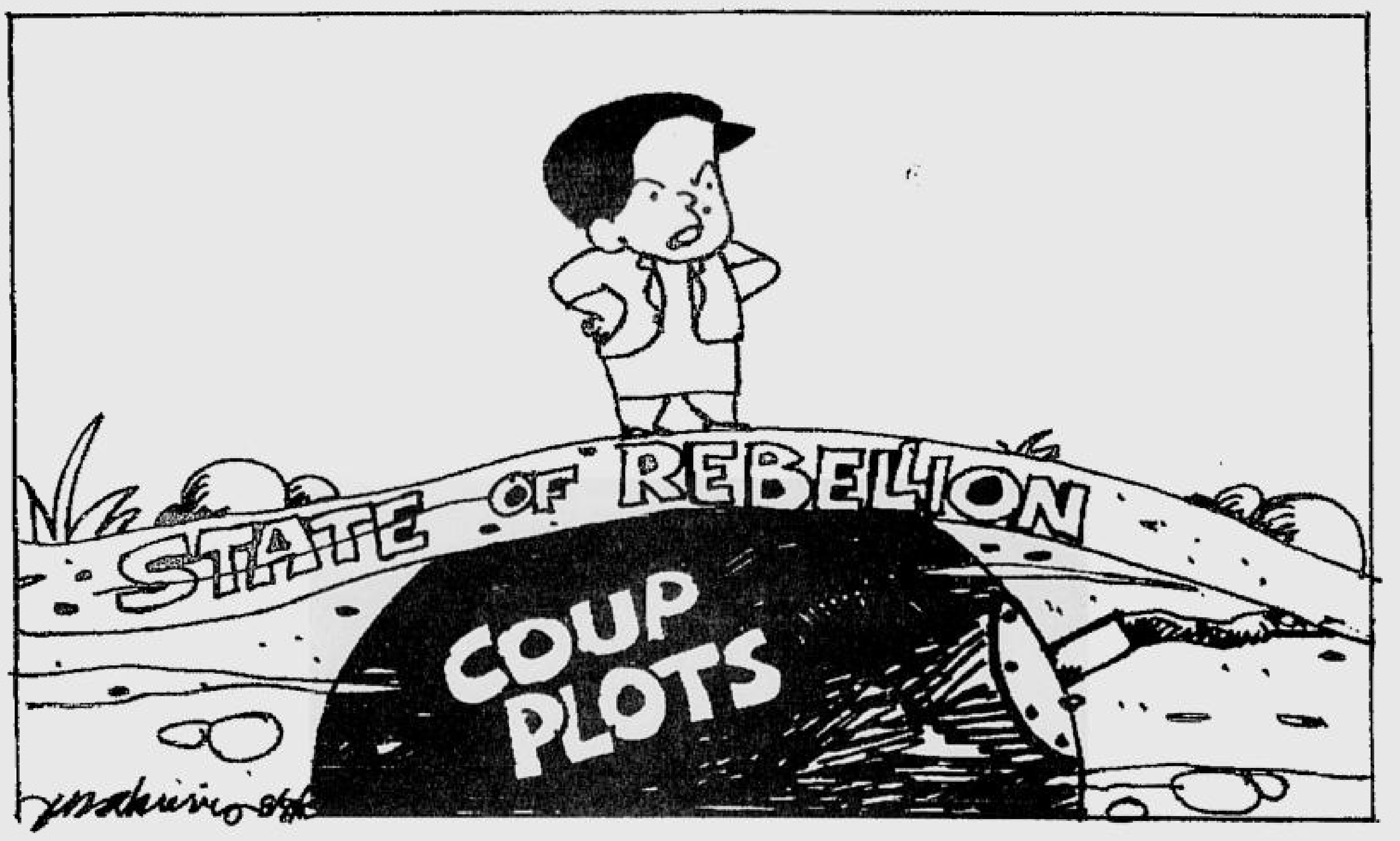


Dividing Marcos' loot

EDITORIAL

THE DECISION this week of the Swiss government to hand over to the Philippine government the frozen $683 million laundered by deposed President Ferdinand Marcos in Swiss banks brings to an end 17 years of legal battle waged by the government to recover at least a substantial part of the Marcos ill-gotten wealth. The $683 million has been deposited in an escrow account with the Philippine National Bank, pending the outcome of the case to declare the funds as ill-gotten.

The Swiss Justice Ministry's decision paves the way for transfer of the funds to the Philippine government on the condition that it will compensate the victims of human rights violations during the Marcos regime. The decision followed a Philippine Supreme Court ruling last July 15 declaring the $683 million to be "ill-gotten." The Swiss government said this fulfilled the condition for its release.

The case had dragged since 1986, when the government of President Corazon Aquino uncovered the Marcos Swiss bank deposits, then amounting to $356 million.

Before compensation is paid to the 9,539 victims of the Marcos martial regime, who were awarded nearly $2 billion in compensation by a US district court in Hawaii, in a class suit, a few obstacles have to be hurdled.

The funds cannot be disbursed until the enactment of a compensation bill, which seeks to allocate $200 million to victims of human rights violations during the Marcos dictatorship. The Macapagal administration has committed itself to pay the $200 million compensation, but only after the bulk of the fund is used for land reform.

Pending in Congress are bills seeking to amend the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Law. Unless the amendments are passed, all ill-gotten wealth of the Marcoses recovered by the government will go to agrarian reform. Who will get what among the claimants depends upon what Congress writes in the compensation legislation.

One bill in the House of Representatives calls for the creation of a trust fund to administer the $200 million intended for the human rights victims. While the amendments are pending in Congress, a scramble is shaping up to carve up the recovered Marcos loot. Already, there are moves in the House to expand the coverage of the compensation to victims of human rights violations after the Marcos regime, prompting Rep. Teodoro Locsin Jr. to ridicule the move as giving compensation entitlement to "every Tom, Dick and Harry wearing a G-string."

This enlargement, it has been pointed, will not only weaken the compensation bill but could touch off a scramble similar to the back pay for World War II veterans in which bogus guerrillas filed thousands of claims for veterans' benefits.

The decision of the Swiss government to transfer the fund to the Philippine government marks the termination of the long-drawn litigation over the Marcos loot, a saga characterized by ups and downs. Deserving credit for the successful legal battle are two institutions: first, the Supreme Court whose decision declaring the money as ill-gotten sealed the legal basis for transfer of the funds; and, second, the leadership at the Presidential Commission on Good Government who pressed for the handover of the funds to the government, after earlier desultory efforts of the same body and attempts in previous administrations to seek an amicable settlement with the Marcos heirs. The latter strategy sprang from the defeatist belief that the chances of recovering the stolen assets were dim and that a compromise in which the Marcos family would keep a substantial portion of the loot was preferable to pursuing litigation.

After this major victory, it would be a pity if the allocation of the funds were to be messed up by Congress.

Botched job

FOREIGN COMMENT

YET again, the United States has chosen to flout international convention. The Bush administration took the extraordinary step of publishing the gruesome photographs of Uday and Qusay Hussein's corpses. The declared aim was to convince the Iraqi population that Saddam Hussein's heirs were dead, and sap the will of resistance groups fighting a guerrilla war against US troops.

They have failed and the result is, at best, a military, intelligence and PR botched job. At worst, it shows the US disdain for human rights and the enemy dead.

The Independent (London)

Warrantless arrests

SEPARATE OPINION

Isagani A. Cruz

AS I understand it, Sen. Gregorio Honasan has gone into hiding because he fears he will be arrested without a warrant. He says he will come out from wherever he is staying the moment President Macapagal-Arroyo lifts her proclamation declaring a state of rebellion. Only then will he be ready to submit to the authorities carrying the warrant for his arrest.

The suspected coup leader is laboring under certain misapprehensions. In the first place, a state of rebellion does not automatically dispense with the necessity of a warrant before an arrest can be lawfully made. Even the proclamation of martial law does not suspend the operation of the Constitution. Secondly, an arrest can be validly made without a warrant even in normal times provided it comes under any of the recognized exceptions.

The right against unreasonable searches and seizures is one of the hallmarks of the free society. It is a familiar principle in libertarian regimes that a man's house is his castle. "It may be frail; its roofs may shake; the rain may enter; the wind may enter. But the King of England may not enter; all his forces dare not cross the threshold of the ruined tenement." The great constitutionalist Cooley remarked: "Awe surrounded and majesty clothed the King, but the humblest subject might shut the door of his cottage against him and defend from intrusion that privacy which was as sacred as kingly prerogatives."

The right to privacy, as it is often called, is guaranteed by our Constitution in Article III, Sec. 2, reading as follows:

"The right of the people to be secure in their persons, houses, papers and effects against unreasonable searches and seizure of whatever nature and for any purpose shall be inviolable, and no search warrant or warrant of arrest shall issue except upon probable cause to be determined personally by the judge after examination under oath or affirmation of the complainant and the witnesses he may produce, and particularly describing the place to be searched and the persons or things to be seized."

This means in layman's terms that a person may not be arrested nor may his house be searched except upon a valid authorization from a judge. Such authorization cannot be couched in general terms as this would prevent the officer serving it from identifying the person or things to be seized or the place to be searched.

Accordingly, a John Doe warrant is not permitted because it may be served, out of malice or mistake, against any person. The address of a high-rise building will be insufficient to specify the particular office therein authorized to be searched, and thus subject all the other offices to intrusion. The objects allowed to be taken should be pinpointed with precision as otherwise everything in the place being searched may be taken.

Despite these strict precautions against the intentional or ignorant violation of the right to privacy, our Supreme Court has allowed certain exceptions to Section 2. In many cases, searches and arrests have been made on the finding of probable cause not by the judge but by other persons. The 1973 Constitution authorized even administrative officials to issue warrants upon their determination of probable cause, but this power was withdrawn by the present charter.

Curiously, however, even soldiers manning checkpoints are allowed to declare the existence of probable cause, not to justify the issuance of a warrant but in fact to excuse its non issuance. The Constitution says that no warrant shall issue except upon probable cause to be personally determined by a judge. But current practice as allowed by the Supreme Court would omit the warrant as long as there is probable cause as determined by a soldier or a policeman, who may not even have read the Constitution, much less understood it. The judge must find probable cause before he can issue a warrant, but the soldier can declare probable cause to ignore the need for a warrant.

Under Rule 113, Sec. 5, of the Rules of Court, a warrantless arrest may be made, even by an ordinary citizen, 1) if a crime is about to be committed, is actually being committed, or has just been committed in his presence; 2) a crime has just been committed and he has personal knowledge of its commission by the person to be arrested; or 3) if the person to be arrested is an escaped convict or detention prisoner.

In addition. according to Chief Justice Davide in Malacat v. Court of Appeals, 283 SCRA 159, warrants are not needed in the case of 1) customs searches; 2) searches of vehicles; 3) seizure of evidence in plain view; 4) consent searches; 5) searches incidental to a lawful arrest; and 6) "stop and frisk: searches.

Even without a warrant, Honasan may be arrested, now or later, under the second paragraph of Rule 113, Sec. 5, which was applied in the case of Umil v. Ramos, 202 SCRA 251. The petitioner was arrested without a warrant 14 days after the commission of the crime, and the Supreme Court sustained the arrest, having been made, it said, after the crime had "just" been committed. After two weeks?

I dissented and said "just" means "a very short time ago," requiring the arrest to be made almost immediately or soon after the commission of the crime. Not surprisingly, I was outvoted as usual.

'Bantay ng bayan'

GET REAL

Solita Collas-Monsod

LAST May 13, heads of associations representing a significant percentage of the country's information technology industry, all professionals and experts in their fields, bought advertising space in some major dailies. The ad was an open letter to Comelec Chair Benjamin Abalos, expressing concern over the award of a P1.3-billion contract for the automated counting and canvassing of election results and pointing out serious irregularities in the bidding and award procedures.

The signatories were: Romulo R. Agatep for the Philippine Electronic Telecommunications Federation; Cynthia R. Mamon for the Information Technology Association of the Philippines; Alfredo M. Torres of the IT Foundation of the Philippines; Tomas Emerito E. Magdangal of the GO for IT (Government for Information Technology); and Maricor Akol of the Philippine Association of Data Entry Corporations. They had no agenda other than to blow the whistle on what, in their expert opinion, was a flawed procedure which could result in the failure of a basic electoral reform that has been long delayed.

As a result of this letter, meetings took place with Comelec officials, but the IT group was given the runaround: every irregularity they pointed out was laid on the feet of the Comelec's Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), none of whose members was present.

Undaunted, the group again wrote to Abalos on May 29, this time with an itemized bill of particulars on the irregularities, such as: the pre-bid documents were given out only one day before the pre-bid conference; the winning bidder was not even a legal entity during the pre-bid conference, being incorporated after the event, and only a couple of weeks before the bid deadline, which meant that it had no financial track record, which was one of the bid requirements (the reader may be interested in the names of the incorporators of the company which won the P1.3-billion contract: Willy U. and Bonnie S. Yu, both residing at South Maya Street, Philam Homes, Quezon City; Enrique T. and Rosita Y. Tansipek of Alexandria Condominium, Pasig; Pedro O. Tan and Lauriano A. Barrios, both with home address at 2255 Pasong Tamo, Makati; and Johnson W. and Bernard L. Fong, both of Del Pilar Street, San Francisco Del Monte, Quezon City); a very stringent technical requirement (a 99.9995 accuracy rating) which scared off legitimate bidders (only two or three of the 57 groups that expressed interest by buying the request-for-proposal documents actually submitted a bid), but which was ignored in making the final decision.

There was no response until June 26, and when it came, it was in the form of "sweeping statements of compliance with bidding rules" rather than addressing the itemized irregularities. The group had also asked, in a letter dated June 12, for a copy of the Comelec's contract with the winning bidder, a public document that should, in the interest of transparency, be available to responsible people requesting for it. No response.

In a word, the group was stonewalled by the Comelec. So the IT Foundation of the Philippines, together with individual petitioners Corazon Akol, Miguel Uy, Eduardo Lopez, Augusto Lagman, Rex Drilon, Miguel Hilado, Ley Salcedo and Manuel Alcuaz, have now gone to the Supreme Court for relief.

The petition before the Supreme Court questions why, "just like in the Piatco deal... an entity. while disqualified from the very start, was nevertheless awarded a billion-peso government contract in a public-bidding," and warns of the dangers of a "fatal flaw or defect in an electoral process brought about wittingly or unwittingly by wrongful acts of officials entrusted with the exercise of that process." Or, in the words of Gus Lagman, who has 40 years' experience in IT and 20 years' experience in elections, "...if this Comelec cannot be trusted to conduct a clean procurement process, can it be trusted to conduct a clean electoral process?"

It is particularly relevant, at this time, to point out the contrast in the approach of this group with that of the organizers of the Makati mutiny/coup d'état. The former's concerns are certainly of national significance: election counting and canvassing, by law, mandated in order to reduce wholesale cheating, could have been automated since 1998, and should have been automated in 2001.

This administration has made it one of its main projects. If it happens in 2004, but is unsuccessful because of flawed machines (the recent events in ARMM, where the Comelec's questionable "voters validation" process failed miserably, at least in the first days, is a warning flag, although involving a different machine but for also a questionable project), the credibility of not only the Comelec but also of the election results and of automation itself will be in serious jeopardy.

But the IT professionals, despite the importance of their cause, are following, the "chain of command." They have exhausted available avenues, and are now appealing to the Supreme Court. The military "idealists" on the other hand, decided to take matters in their own hands. The IT professionals are using their own funds, their own resources, to mount their activities. The military "idealists" used military equipment entrusted to them by the people for the latter's protection, and were certainly financed by outside sources whose identity they do not seem willing to divulge.

The IT professionals can certainly be called "*bantay ng bayan*." The military has behaved more like "*bantay salakay*."

'The Firm' diminished by libel case

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

MY sister-in-law, the redoubtable Ninez Cacho-Olivares, editor in chief and publisher of the Daily Tribune, and I very seldom share the same politics. In fact one day that her views and mine happened to dovetail, former Senate President Jovito Salonga called up immediately to tease me, "*Uy, nagkapareho kayo yata ngayon ng* viewpoint." But I want to add my voice to the many protesting the way her libel case filed by the President's lawyer, Arthur "Pancho" Villaraza, was handled. Its timing couldn't be more unfortunate for the administration.

All journalists live daily with the reality of libel, but this one seems to bear all the hallmarks of despotic harassment. The arrest order was served at the ungodly hour of 6 a.m. when the banks are closed. Moreover, the case moved with what a lawyer termed "very uncharacteristic dispatch." A lot is being made of the fact that the chief prosecutor of Makati, Felicisimo Aspi, came from "The Firm" and is a classmate and fraternity brod of Villaraza. In fact it's no secret that "The Firm" is trying to get Aspi appointed to the Court of Appeals.

Then, too, the libel case consists of 19 counts of the same mother charge, and as lawyers have observed, it would involve 19 arraignments for Ninez before the Makati RTC, and the bail becomes quite prohibitive (almost P200,000). The 19 counts may seem quite intimidating, but they do not seem proportionate to the much-depleted reputation of Villaraza's law office in legal circles. "The Firm" ought to be worried about the way it's being spoken of in whispers.

* * *

Sen. Joker Arroyo was correct in lamenting the failure of the two chambers of Congress to condemn the failed Oakwood mutiny and as I read his speech, I couldn't help but recall the lament of a famous rabbi during the time of Hitler's persecution of the Jews. Speaking in the third person, the rabbi noted how people failed to condemn Hitler as his troops came to get one group after another, until finally there was no one left to rally against the despot. Sadly as Arroyo has pointed out, the members of Congress lost their collective voice when their institution would have been the first to become extinct in the event of a military takeover.

But clarifications have to be made. Last Monday, during the Senate caucus convoked by Senate President Franklin Drilon to discuss the resolution filed by six senators calling for a deferment of the Senate inquiry into the mutineers' complaints against the AFP leadership, 12 senators filed a resolution condemning the means taken by the rebels to air their grievances, while seven senators filed a second resolution categorically classifying the failed action as a coup d'etat. These resolutions came over a week after the failed mutiny, but better late than never. However, no similar condemnation has come from the House and its inaction is deafening.

* * *

The Senate president pointed out that he was the first elected official to appear on TV to condemn the mutiny on the morning of July 27 (one of the earliest to come out was presidential adviser for overseas Filipino communities Heherson Alvarez, who mobilized a group of government officials and private citizens to enlighten the public on the issues involved in the mutiny over TV). Drilon went to Malacañang early that Sunday to throw his support behind the President, and at the opening of the Senate the following morning, he stressed that while the soldiers who mutinied may "reflect the frustrations of our people (with regard to corruption and good governance)," our people would "never condone the methods they have resorted to in order to address those grievances." The following day, at the Senate necrological services for former Vice President Emmanuel Pelaez, the Senate chief again decried the mutiny and expressed the hope that Pelaez's query, "What's happening to our country, General?" now being raised in connection with the mutiny, would one day stop to be asked.

A few senators have indeed raised individual voices to lament the mutiny, but the response of the Senate as an institution was quite delayed. As for the House, it seems to have lost its voice.

* * *

At the necrological services for Pelaez in Ayala Alabang last Saturday, the Nacionalista Party convention of 1964 was again recalled. It was noted how the camp of Senate President Ferdinand Marcos bought delegates in violation of an earlier gentleman's agreement to refrain from vote-buying and that Pelaez refused to join that game. Nearly 40 years after that convention, it is still being asked how vastly different our history would have been if Pelaez had won the nomination.

Former UP and now Kalayaan College president Jose V. Abueva, in his speech, stressed in hindsight the two top contenders for the NP nomination represented "sharply contrasting political cultures and behavior." The culture which Pelaez stood for, he said, is marked by "human decency, honesty and integrity, preferring peace with freedom and justice," while the culture represented by Marcos reflects "human depravity and insatiable greed and corruption" and thrives "on violence and threats to inspire fear and submission." The culture Pelaez represented, he said, upholds and enhances democracy, people's empowerment and participation in good governance. He noted that "today's advocates of federalism benefit from Pelaez's initiatives in local autonomy and decentralization" as embodied in the Barrio Charter he had authored. Whereas, said Abueva, the culture exemplified by Marcos "exploits the frailties of democracy and the people's vulnerability to deceit and manipulation."

A bill to save UP

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

WITH A SENIOR high school student in the family, the next few months is "entrance exam season" in our home. The season began with the Upcat last weekend, in preparation for which we had already shelled out a few thousand pesos for a month's worth of weekend reviews. But that wasn't the only "price" we paid for a (we hope) passing grade in the entrance exams for the State University.

Days before, our daughter was alternately giddy and in the dumps, exhilarated at the prospect of starting her "college career," then dreading the prospect of failure. The fact that the Upcat is but the first of a series of college entrance tests did little to alleviate the emotional turmoil.

Because I was working over that weekend, I couldn't give in to her request for "someone" to accompany her to the exam venue. I tried to sell her on the idea that going through the Upcat all by her lonesome would be good training, to prepare her for "college life." She wasn't buying it. Finally, her father cancelled a scheduled fishing trip and agreed not just to drive her to the test site, but also to wait until the test began. "Even when she was already far away and about to enter the classroom, she still kept looking back to check if I was there," he reported later.

Indeed, no matter how much a young person declares he or she is ready to leave behind "the things of the child," there will be times when the child overwhelms the youth.

* * *

STILL, I can't get over how stressful the process of transiting from high school to college can get these days.

In our time (there we go again), getting into the college of one's choice seemed only a matter of our parents' ability (and willingness) to pay the tuition and other fees. These days, the level of competition seems to have risen several notches, and though I think the sheer number of graduating high school seniors has something to do with the scarcity of freshman slots, I suspect other factors are at work here as well.

Certainly, the competition for acceptance into a few "select" schools, UP among them, is much hotter. Parents and young people are only too aware that employers are on the lookout for graduates from certain "A list" universities and colleges, with these applicants singled out for "special" interviews.

But the prevailing preference for the "A list" institutions must also be viewed against the general background of falling standards of education, the tertiary level included. I can only imagine how frustrating it must be for the thousands of graduates who, after having labored for four or more years, find that in the end, it's still the pedigree of one's diploma (and thus, to a large extent, one's family background) that matters in snagging a job.

* * *

I'VE always maintained that the way to ensure quality education for our children is to ensure that all children enjoy quality education. Nothing is more symbolic of the deterioration of our once-proud standards of college education than the continuing slide of the University of the Philippines in regional assessments of institutions of higher learning. Scholars from neighboring countries used to be sent to UP for their undergraduate and post-graduate studies. But other universities in the region have since caught up and not only that, have even surpassed the country's most prestigious institutions, with UP showing the sharpest declines.

That's why, even if I'm not a UP alumna, I support Senate Bill 2587, sponsored on the floor by Sen. Francis Pangilinan, that seeks to revise the 96-year-old UP Charter.

In a letter, UP president Francisco Nemenzo wrote that even as the State University approaches its centennial, "UP is facing harder times than ever." Many of its top Ph.D.'s have left for better-paying jobs in the private sector here and abroad, he mentions, while its laboratories and libraries "badly need to be modernized."

The reason for this situation, notes Nemenzo, is that UP's share of the education budget is "barely enough to make ends meet."

* * *

IT'S for this reason that UP officials feel the need to revise the UP Charter, one reason being "to allow UP to compete successfully with the region's best."

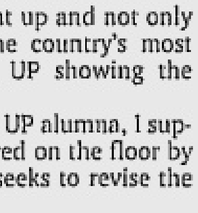
A new charter, Nemenzo says, would confer "formal recognition by the government of UP as the national university of the Philippines, to set it apart from the hundred-plus other state universities and colleges, in the same way that the University of Tokyo, the University of Malaya, Chulalongkorn University, the National University of Singapore, the Australian National University, Seoul National University, and Peking University are seen in their respective countries, in a category of their own..."

With recognition as "the" national university, UP "would be freed from the shackles of the Salary Standardization Law, which has kept UP faculty salaries pitifully low. A full professor in UP makes a maximum of about P30,000 a month; in La Salle, that can go high as P94,000. UP used to be able to set its own salary scale, but the SSL ended that."

A new charter, Nemenzo said, would also further democratize the composition of the UP Board of Regents, as well as allow UP to convert the use of part of its land grants for income-generating purposes, to end the university's dependence on budget provisions.

The bill for a new UP charter has been passed by the House and needs only approval from the Senate. If you believe in the need to return UP to its old prestige, you can make the senators aware of your support for the bill and the need to pass it as soon as possible.

Historical ignorance



SENSE AND SENSIBILITY

Bambi L. Harper

THE ORDINARY Filipino is often scorned for knowing more about Western history than his own and, worse, not caring at all. What he knows about Philippine history might fill a page but what he knows about Southeast Asia could probably be summarized in two sentences. There may be more than one reason for our plight: Western publications are glossier and more entertaining, Discovery channel is more educational, Western movies are readily available with plenty of hype.

Take the Majapahit Empire. We may remember vaguely from some history lesson in high school that we were once part of it, way back in the 14th century. It had a great king, Hayam Wuruk, and a greater minister, Gajah Mada. I wouldn't like to bet on just how much name recall those two have compared to, say, Abraham Lincoln or George Washington. The Majapahits also had two "famous" poets: Prapanca and Tantular, authors of "Nagarakrtagama" and of the "Sutasoma" and "Arjumawijayaksksein." Aside from the academe at UP perhaps, not even 1 in 1,000 Filipinos would know (I hate to add care) about this.

But still it is disturbing, given that we are Asians, and if it's true that the Philippines was once part of this empire, shouldn't we be better informed? The Majapahit Empire began to decline in the 15th century, roughly about the time that the Western colonization of these areas began. It is also believed that Islam's penetration as far as the coasts of Java contributed to the independence of the commercial towns along the north coast from the old inland center. Malacca became the new Muslim emporium in the area. The third factor was the expanding influence of the Chinese which made itself felt in the 15th century through the voyages of Adm. Cheng Ho. (He's another one that few of us know about unless we've been watching Discovery Channel.)

There may be benefits to being an archipelago, isolated from others. A civil war brewed from 1403 to 1406 between the western part of the state under King Wikramawardhana and the eastern part under his cousin Wiradbhumi (neither of whom I'm sure we've ever heard of), with none of our ancestors much the wiser it seems. Aside from that, there was a great famine in 1426 and frequent quarrels among the royals. Some 40 years later, rival princes of Daha captured the old capital of Majapahit and established a new dynasty called Girindrawardhana. What effect this had on us, if any, we probably will never know.

There is also it seems a Javanese book of kings called the Pararaton with a final date of 1481. I have to confess to a certain amount of envy that there are 14 copperplates covering the Waringin Pitu inscription, for instance, and that new information about the Majapahit came to light with the discovery of an old Sundanese narrative poem "Bujangga Manik." The text was preserved in a single palm-leaf manuscript in the Bodhleian library at Oxford since the beginning of the 17th century. The poem describes the journey through the whole of Java of a Hindu-Sundanese ascetic who renounces his royal title and his former life for an ascetic religious life.

Chinese sources have extensive references to Java. Chao Ju-kua, Chu fan chih ("Description of the Barbarians") published in 1226 gives a long description of Java at the time of the Sung dynasty. Book 489 of T'o T'o (1313-1355) "History of the Sung Dynasty" contains a lengthy description of Java at the time. Sung Lien (1310-1381) Yuan shih ("History of the Yuan Dynasty") has a section on the Mongol attack on Java in Book 210 and the rise of the Majapahit.

To be fair to our historians, few would be familiar with archaic Chinese or even modern-day Mandarin. The lack of funds for research may be another reason for our ignorance. It isn't as though there's that much available for esoteric investigations or even for grants to go roaming the archives of the world. (On the other hand, there does seem to be an awful lot of funds for some very questionable projects.)

We also know little about the pirate states that existed in and around Borneo and our southern Philippines in the 18th and 19th centuries and consequently are uninformed with regard to the mores and traditions of the area. That piracy existed since the ancient beginnings of sea traffic and trade in the straits and along the coasts of the area is not something I imagine is taught in regular history classes. One of the reasons given for the frequent raids was the dislocation caused by Western incursions, especially by the Dutch, which disrupted the native patterns of commerce and drove the chiefs of the rivers and coasts to marauding as a means of livelihood.

Our next question should be whether the policies of the present-day Philippine government contribute to the incidence of piracy and marauding. Piracy has almost always coincided with political disorganization in conjunction with an absence of systems of authority. Are we having a replay or acting out that old adage that the more things change, the more they remain the same?

In closing, were you aware that it isn't only in the Philippines that there are people known as Bisaya? In Borneo the Bisayans live in Sabah, Brunei and Sarawak as well as the areas along the Klias, Padas, Lawas and Limbang rivers. In that case, did the Bisayans originate from Borneo or was it vice versa?

Lovely lady

YOUNG BLOOD

Zoe Brillantes

We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the twentysomething and below.—**Ed.**

Lovely ladies
Waiting for a bite
Waiting for the customers
Who only come at night
Lovely ladies ready for the call
Standing up or lying down or anyway at all
Bargain prices up against the wall.
—Lovely Ladies (from "Les Misérables")

THREE Filipino friends and I went on a three-day tour of Amsterdam, a European city known for its centuries-old gabled houses, lively arts and culture scene and its very lax laws on prostitution and drugs. The city's red-light district consists of a group of buildings with large shopping windows on the ground floor. Girls and transvestites in skimpy costumes gyrate behind glass partitions and make eyes at the men who come to ogle at them, inviting them to exchange their money for a few minutes of pleasure. It was there that we met Daniella.

Daniella has been a prostitute ever since she was 18. That was six years ago. Her "office" is a door-sized window where she displays herself from 7 p.m. to 5 a.m. She tries to entice customers from one small door-sized window along a side alley. To get to her room, you have to go through her display case which leads into a dark hall. Her tiny room contains a sink, a twin-size bed with a big box of condoms on it and a closet where she keeps her toys.

The door barely misses the bed when it swings open or close. Two people can stay in the room—but only if at least one of them is in bed. The only illumination comes from a black light which, according to my friend Marius, makes people look much better than they really are.

Even without the fancy light, Daniella is beautiful. She has long, straight blond hair, a clear young face, a slim body, a flat stomach, and slightly tanned skin. She's wearing a neon yellow bra and her neon-yellow thong peeks through her jeans.

She talks earnestly, looking straight into my eyes as she gives us a glimpse into her life. She is sitting cross-legged on the crumpled bed sheets, between Marius and me.

She had just called home to check if her two kids were still awake when we came, she explains. That's why she wasn't in her window when we peeked into it.

"Do you have a husband?" Marius asks.

There is a momentary pause and then she says, "Yes, I do."

"And does he live with you?"

"Yes, he does."

Marius and I are skeptical about the husband but we don't pursue that line any further.

"I love going to town and looking at things," Daniella continues. "I think I would like to buy that for my kids. And my husband. My hand has a hole in it: when I get money, it immediately flows out."

I ask her how much she normally earns in a month.

Wrong question. "It varies," she says. "If I earn 500 euros in a day, then I am happy. But usually I earn more. Usually it's more than 500 euros. But ever since the war..."

Apparently earning 500 euros doesn't take too much of her time. For 20 minutes of "fun" she charges Marius 50 euros. I am charged a lower price of 40 euros. But with Marius and me with her in the same room, we do not get the full 40 minutes; our session lasts only 20 minutes. (Later I would ask Marius if he felt like we had been ripped off. He said no; it's harder to entertain two people at the same time. Poor Marius, he paid 50 euros to be with a pretty Dutch lady and there was Zoe in the same room playing investigative reporter.)

The money Daniella earns, of course, goes to cover her living expenses. She pays 100 euros a night to her landlord for the use of the window and the room. "Later he's coming, and I'll give him 100 euros so I can come again tomorrow," she says. She pays for health insurance, too, but she doesn't pay taxes on her income. A law to tax such income is under consideration, but it hasn't been passed yet by parliament.

We ask Daniella if it's OK for us to talk, wondering if she would rather spread her legs than open her mouth in conversation.

"Of course I prefer talking to doing things," she assures us.

What was the most dangerous or difficult thing she ever encountered in her job?

"Sometimes people have guns and they point it at your head."

When she was new in the profession, she let someone in who did just that to her. She called the police and they helped her.

She points to a red button beside the headboard. Pressing the button will bring the police rushing in.

Now she knows how to look at people and assess whether they are safe or not.

Our 20 minutes expires too soon. As we walk out the door, Daniella waves a spiky, feathery high-heeled shoe at me. "You should wear this to look taller," she advises me.

Marius and I are quiet on the way out, trying to make sense of what we have just experienced. Is there any other job in the world that requires a person to give as much as a prostitute does? How can people use other people this way? In Europe, and most certainly in Amsterdam, streetwalkers get paid very well. But what about those in the Philippines? Do they have any health benefits at all? How do they feel about themselves?

We talked with Daniella hoping to find some answers. Instead, we left her with more questions in our minds.

Zoe Brillantes, 27, works as a computer programmer at the World Health Organization in Switzerland.

THEY SAID

Real walk for a cause

"Never mind how our feet would look like or if there is trouble along the way. This is our calling."

—Amadita Wagayan, a midwife who hikes for hours and crosses rivers to deliver babies in the Cordilleras

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Is undressing now an art?

"PLDT, please give us a break!" I reacted to the full-page, low budget and pitiably creative ad that greeted me. My companion retorted, agreeing with similar distaste for such a shallow marketing approach, "What do you expect Father, *laos na si* Joyce, now it's PJ's turn!"

Only some weeks ago, I was revolted when a huge banner was unscrupulously draped right in front of a Carmelite convent—another PLDT ad offering private Joyce for public consumption. Now the Patricia Javier ad not only runs a similar artificial double entendre dial tone "Touch me now!" (not to mention the artificiality of physical add-ons worn by many women of the bold movie industry), it even claims that she is in public demand. Surely this public isn't the majority of parents and guardians who are concerned with upholding the proper values to conserve the members of their respective families and communities.

Unsatisfied in luring their public with such steamy strokes, PLDT has gone so far as to offer 100 adult VCD materials with the purchase of the call cards: "Bare Naked, A Video Anthology on the Art of Undressing." Even though the corporation had no direct responsibility in producing this VCD, it still cooperates in spreading such unwanted immoral ingredients in our society by the mere fact that it is using it as a marketing scheme.

When was undressing ever considered an art? Do we now have universities offering ABs in undressing? Am I getting the acronym right? Does PLDT stand for Philippine Licensing Decadence Technology? What does a corporation like PLDT, boasting to make people communicate better, gain with these types of ads? Can they imagine what such ads dial subliminally into the minds of every adolescent and adult in the street by offering available objects like Jimenez and Javier? One gathers that this isn't at all about communicating because it is causing busy lines resulting from aroused bare instincts that drive people's passions and imaginations up the wall of sensuality, indecency, promiscuity and infidelity.

These ads have nothing to do with communicating because communication is about putting the lives of people together. How can unity among people be fostered if life-wrenching vices are implied behind the products they intend to buy? How can people live respectable lives in their family, work and recreation when the concealed ideas that surround them only foment a sense of individualism or eroticism? Surely, this is not the form of communication that we Filipinos wish to uphold for our society and much less for the future that our children will grow up in.

Once again, PLDT, besides requesting the removal of such banners and ads, should be creative so as to communicate the values that will help our people, especially our younger generation, to be more united in heart and mind before God and men, and especially within the very core of society, which is the family.

—REV. FR. FRANCIS B. ONGKINGCO,
377 Juan Luna Ave.,
Mabolo, 6000 Cebu City

Truth is unchanging

I JUST want to comment on the column of Ramon Tulfo (PDI, 7/15/03) titled "Biazon's Family Planning bill." I respect his opinion regarding family planning. Knowing the doctrine of the Catholic Church, I am certainly against family planning. Family planning is preventing life. The Catholic Church knows and understands Jesus Christ's admonition "to give to Ceasar what belongs to Ceasar and to God what belongs to God." In this issue, life is our concern. Life belongs to God and not to Ceasar. Let us not involve politics in this issue.

It is also true that the Catholic Church is not God. But it was founded by God, so it is holy. It is part of the Catholic Church mission to pass moral judgment even on political matters whenever the fundamental rights of man or the salvation of souls are affected. I still believe that many couples do not want to practice family planning. Sometimes they are pressured by wrong information about the population growth. Government officials should always be honest in their intention to help society. Personal interests should not be their first concern so that their view will always be objective.

It is true that there is no such thing as a Catholic vote, because the Catholic Church always respects the freedom of individual members. Everyone, Catholic or not, has his/her own view. But the truth of morality will always remain the truth, even though the "majority" (if it is true) are doing the opposite.

—ALITA A.'LADIENTE,
294 Old Evertex Rd.,
Calamba City, Laguna

Commercializing leadership

"SUFFRAGE is dangerous in a country where the masses are little educated." Thus, Jose Rizal observed.

The political fever is getting warmer. PR men are having their field day promoting political wannabes through commercial products. What is disconcerting though is that the *masa* get entertained by the cute gimmicks churned by expert image builders. As early as this time of the year, there is a frenzied attempt to gain political mileage through systematic political and physical exposure.

Instead of educating the public about society's problems, self-centered propaganda of demagogues have become the order of the day. Economic issues are relegated into the background and the masses are in the dark as to what ails our country. God forbid that the "little educated" will become the tyrant of our times. We need an educated leader who keeps his ears on the ground. We need a patriotic leader whose vision transcends beyond personal aggrandizement. We need a charismatic leader who will fire the imagination of the great "unwashed" to move forward. We need a strong leader worthy of emulation before "the masses (who) are little educated" bring us all to political and economic perdition.

God spare us from self-centered and self-serving politicians. God spare us from the opportunists who pander to the emotions of the masses in order to win them over.

—SAMUEL P. FERNANDEZ,
Order of the Knights of Rizal,
Bonifacio Drive, Port Area, Manila

UP Law dean didn't chicken out

ON AUG. 4, 2003, Dean Jorge Bocobo began his column by saying that Dean Raul Pangalangan of the UP Law School skipped out on the debate that he'd agreed to with Alan Paguia on the constitutionality of the Macapagal administration. That is untrue. I declined the Ateneo invitation because it came too late: it came on a Wednesday, for a Saturday morning symposium. I did not agree, I did not "skip out." It is unfortunate if the organizers had misled Bocobo.

I had spoken exactly on that topic at the University of the Philippines the week before, with Sen. Rene Saguisag on the panel, and Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile and Assemblyman Bono Adaza as active participants in the audience, and would speak on the topic again two weeks later with AWARE, a cause-oriented group of critical-thinking citizens formed during the democratic struggle against Marcos.

In hindsight, in light of the recent coup attempt, the sustained campaign to discredit the Supreme Court was but the intellectual component to a military assault on our democracy. It would disable the Court from striking down a projected junta, a déjà vu of the Javellana decision that legitimated Marcos' martial law. As I have said at the UP forum and elsewhere, People Power cannot be reduced to legalistic formulae; it demands that we view law "in the grand manner," and seek legitimacy not in law as inert rules mechanically applied, but in law as the embodiment of values for which generations of Filipino patriots have shed blood to preserve.

—RAUL C. PANGALANGAN,
dean and professor,
UP College of Law,
Diliman, Quezon City

Host was former mayor, not former governor

THE JULY 21 edition of your newspaper carried a news item about a dog hero here in Baguio. It is nice to read about a dog hero in our city and we are proud of it.

Unfortunately, the news item carried with it an inaccurate information: that the Castillos, the owners of the dog, were made to stay in the garage of the house of former Benguet Gov. Andres R. Bugnosen.

The information has demeaned my humble person. I am afraid your readers might now be entertaining the notion that I am heartless for putting the Castillos in my garage. Already, some friends have called up regarding this matter.

I do not know the Castillos, although I congratulate them for the honor bestowed on their dog. The reporter should at least have called me to inquire about the veracity of that detail. This has caused me and my family some mental anguish. As Christians, we could not have done such a thing.

—ANDRES R. BUGNOSEN,
14 Ma. Pucay Road,
Guisad, Baguio City

We apologize for the error. The information I got was that the Castillos were staying in the garage of "former Mayor" Andres Bugnosen. It was an honest mistake. In their own reports, other reporters similarly named "former Mayor Andres Bugnosen" instead of former Baguio City Mayor Jaime Bugnosen, the former governor's brother.

I talked to former Mayor Bugnosen and he said it was the Castillos who asked to stay in their garage in Barangay Sta. Escolastica, Baguio. Former Mayor Bugnosen said he also does not know the Castillos but was letting them stay with him out of the goodness of his heart.

—FRANK CIMATU,
correspondent,
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

Makati gov't shows political will

THIS refers to the no smoking ordinance passed even before Republic Act 9211 was signed by President Macapagal-Arroyo.

We wish to commend the Makati City council and government for the political will to implement the ordinance which received so much resistance especially from the expats of Makati City. One expat I know left the Philippines for Indonesia to escape it.

At any rate, with the advent of the 21st century, it is high time to enforce this no smoking ban, which is similar to the ban that the Manila council pioneered inside the movie houses at the urging of the late Mayor Antonio Villegas some four decades ago.

It is not only unfair but very dangerous to make children and non-smokers to inhale second-hand cigarette smoke.

Unfortunately, before the victims of second-hand smoke die, they and their relatives spend a lot of money aside from undergoing so much suffering. Moreover, we know how deadly the cigarette habit is because a smoker inhales around 200 elements that are bad for the body. Naturally for every cigarette stick that a smoker lights, it is calculated that he loses two minutes of his life unless a fatal accident intervenes.

Cigarette-smoking has killed well-known international figures like the late actor Yul Brynner and singer Sammy Davis. Locally, in the prime of their lives, it has claimed the life of Eddie Ocampo, Joe Cantada and many of our colleagues in the profession and classmates.

Also to cure tobacco, so much trees must be cut down and burnt. Ironically, trees that help control pollution are decimated to cause pollution.

Tobacco competes with plants like rice and other crops which can help farmers increase their income.

However, may we request the Makati City council to amend some of the implementing rules and regulations like the P10,000 inspection fee, because it is too big for inspection purposes. Likewise, the 25 percent of the total area of every establishment reserved for smokers' use is too large. Ten percent will satisfy.

—BRAULIO RG TANSINSIN,
360 Tomas Pinpin St.,
Binondo, Manila

Old-boy network at work

THE MOVE of the government to turn over Navy Lt. (s.g.) Antonio Trillanes IV and his fellow officers to the Intelligence Service of the Armed Forces of the Philippines is reprehensible and disgusting. They would now be interrogated by no less than Brig. Gen. Victor Corpus, a man whom they accused of being involved in the Sasa wharf bombing in Mindanao. (*General Corpus has resigned as Isafp chief.*—Ed.)

One of the telling signs of institutionalized corruption is the existence of an old-boy network protecting itself against any complaints brought forward. It often happens in such a mutually protective network that the accused officials themselves become the de facto judge of the complaints filed against them, and the whistle-blower then becomes the person under investigation.

I myself was a victim of this last year. I filed a complaint complete with documentary evidence, including pictures, against an official of a government financial institution. The complaint was filed with the office of the president of that institution. That very same day, the letter and the evidence were delivered to the official against whom I filed the complaint. When I met the president of the institution a few months later, he said he never received the letter. He subsequently found out from his secretary that the letter was in the custody of the accused.

—JOSE ERNESTO R. LEDESMA,
Greenhills, San Juan,
Metro-Manila

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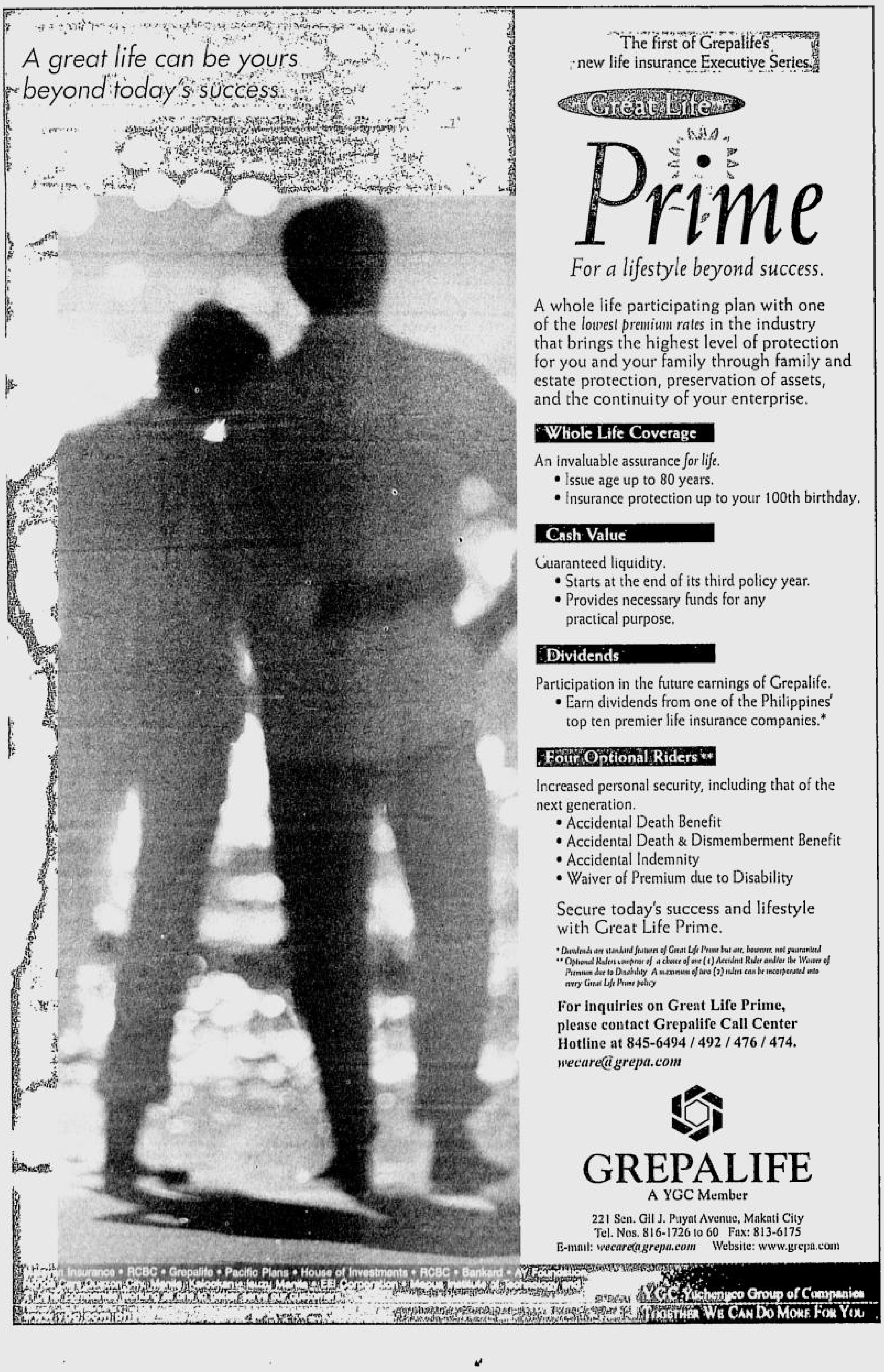

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The WORLD

Editor **Luverne B. Gueco**

Marriott suicide bomber linked to JI

JAKARTA—A severed head found at the scene of Jakarta's deadly hotel bombing belonged to a member of the Jemaah Islamiyah extremist network, Indonesian police said Friday.

Indonesia's top detective Erwin Mappaseng told reporters the head has been identified as belonging to Asmar Latinsani, 28, a native of West Sumatra.

"He was recruited as a member of Jemaah Islamiyah by Sardono and Muhammad Rais. These two men were members of Jemaah Islamiyah (JI) who were arrested prior to the bombing at the JW Marriott hotel," Mappaseng said.

The al Qaida-linked JI is also blamed for the Bali bombings last October and a string of other bloody attacks in the region. It seeks to establish a pan-Islamic state in much of Southeast Asia.

Police had sketched a reconstruction of the head which was found on the fifth floor of the hotel. At least 10 people died and 146 were injured in the car bombing Tuesday.

Mappaseng did not say if Asmar is believed to be the driver of the Kijang van which blew up in what authorities suspect was a suicide bombing.

He said Asmar's sister confirmed the identity of the head based on a scar and a mole on his neck.

The other two JI members were arrested between the Sumatran cities of Medan and Pekanbaru, Mappaseng said.

The breakthrough came as Indonesian President Megawati Sukarnoputri called for an international coalition to fight terrorism.

Delivering the Asean Lecture here, Megawati said the Sept. 11 attacks on the United States, last October's Bali bombing, and the Jakarta hotel bombing have shown that regional plans of action to tackle terrorism and cross-border crimes like drug smuggling are inadequate.

"It became clear that no single country or group of countries could overcome this threat alone. In Indonesia's view, which is shared by the rest of the Asean (Association of Southeast Asian Nations) members, it would take a global coalition involving all nations, all societies, religions and cultures to defeat this threat," she said.

Megawati was speaking a day after judges on the resort island of Bali handed down their first verdict for the Bali bombings.

Local newspapers on Friday welcomed the death sentence handed to Bali bomber Amrozi, 41, the first of 34 suspects to be tried for the Oct. 12 bombings that killed 202 people, mostly Western holidaymakers, on Bali's tourist strip.

The sentence is "an event of major significance," wrote The Jakarta Post in an editorial. *AFP*

INDONESIAN Chief Police Dai Bachtiar shows journalists a picture of suspect in the US-run JW Marriott hotel bombing during a press conference in Jakarta, Aug. 8. AFP

Baghdad blast: US focuses on Ansar al-Islam

WASHINGTON—The US military, investigating Thursday's car bombing outside the Jordanian embassy in Baghdad, is focusing attention on Ansar al-Islam, a terrorist group with links to al-Qaida, Pentagon officials said.

"The one organization that we have confidence, that we know is in Iraq and in the Baghdad area is Ansar al-Islam," said Lt. Gen. Norton Schwartz, operations director of the Joint Staff.

"It is unknown whether this particular organization was associated with the events of this morning. Perhaps that will become clearer as we go down the road. But that is an al-Qaida related organization, and one we are focusing attention on," he said.

Schwartz said it was not yet known whether the bombing, which killed 11 people and wounded 57, was the work of foreign terrorists or the former Baathist security and paramilitary forces that have been at the core of a persistent and increasingly effective insurgency.

Nor would officials say whether it marked a change in tactics in the guerrilla war against the US-led occupation troops.

"There are terrorists in Iraq. We know that and we've talked about the kind of activities that we see," said Lawrence Di Rita, a senior aide to US Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld and the Pentagon's acting press secretary.

"Terrorists use a variety of tactics, including this kind of tactic," he said.

Schwartz said he did not know whether Ansar al-Islam had state sponsorship, or how large it was.

In April, US-led forces conducted a devastating air and ground assault to wipe out an Ansar al-Islam-controlled enclave in northern Iraq. At the time the group was believed to number some 800 in a cluster of 16 villages.

In recent weeks, senior US military officials have said the group is active again in Iraq along with al-Qaida's terrorist network.

Although best known for allegedly attempting to produce chemical and biological agents in their mountain stronghold, the group is capable of rigging a vehicle with explosives, a defense official said.

It was believed to have been behind a suicide car bombing in northern Iraq March 22 that killed an Australian television camerman and three Kurds.

Other Iraqi groups also are adept in the use of explosives, however, including former members of the Iraqi Intelligence Service, which use to train terrorists in bombings at camps inside the country, said the official. *AFP*

Bush's ratings dip amid struggling US economy

WASHINGTON—Americans want President George W. Bush to focus most of his attention on the struggling economy, says a new poll that indicates his public support has fallen to about the level it was two years ago.

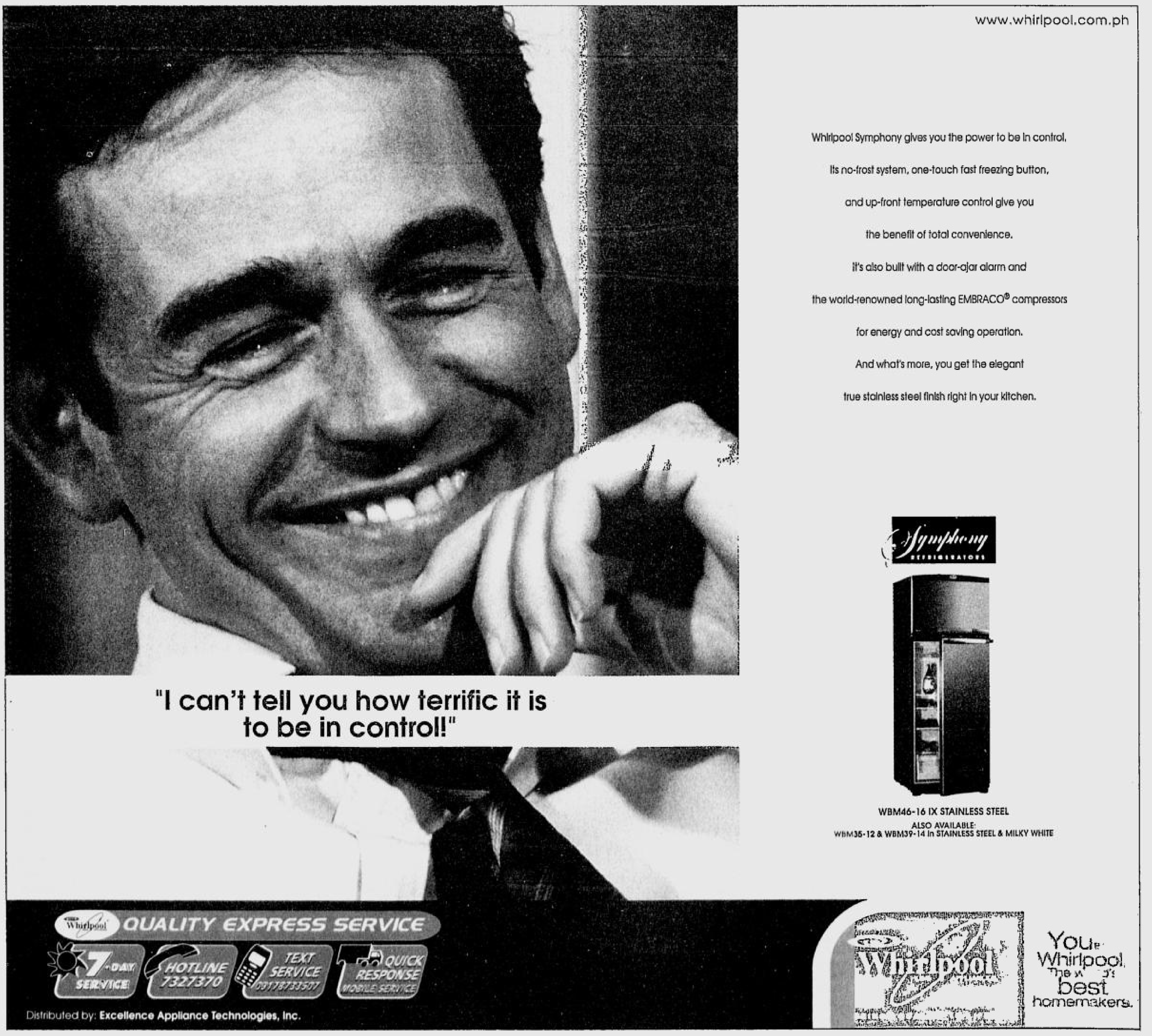
The president's job approval rating fell to 53 percent in a poll by the Pew Research Center for the People & the Press, close to his level of support before the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks and down from 58 percent in July.

In a shift from January when the fight against terror had a higher priority than the economy, 57 percent said the economy is a more important presidential priority, while 27 percent said the war on terror.

Certain to give Democrats hope was Bush's hypothetical matchup with a generic Democrat; the president leads by 43 percent to 38 percent in that contest.

Women, especially older women, and Americans who are middle-income or lower-income, have moved away from Bush, the poll suggested.

Despite Bush's lagging poll numbers, Democratic candidates still must win over members of their own party before taking on the president next year. *AP*



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No end in sight to record Europe heat

PARIS—There was no sign of a let-up to the European heatwave Thursday as temperatures remained close to record levels across much of the continent, leaving an exhausted population gagging for some cool.

Thermometers from London to Lisbon once again climbed to the high 30s Celsius (95 Fahrenheit)—higher in parts of Portugal, Spain and Italy—and forecasters warned the dog days could last till the end of next week.

Emergency workers continued to fight forest fires across parts of Portugal, Spain, France, Italy, Croatia and Montenegro, though officials said most of the blazes were now under control even as new fires sprung up.

The combination of fast-moving wildfires and punishing temperatures has left at least 34 people dead in the past two weeks—20 from fires in France and Portugal, and 14 who succumbed to the heat in Spain.

The forest fires have destroyed around 175,000 hectares of pinewood and brush across the continent, most of it in Portugal.

Authorities in Switzerland reported that Alpine glaciers as high up as 4,000 meters were melting in the unaccustomed heat, creating dangerous conditions for climbers and hikers and leading to the closure of some walking routes.

In France state-owned rail operator SNCF shut down part of the line between the eastern towns of Nancy and Belfort after tracks buckled. The metal reached a temperature of 51 degrees Celsius (124 Fahrenheit) on Tuesday, officials said.

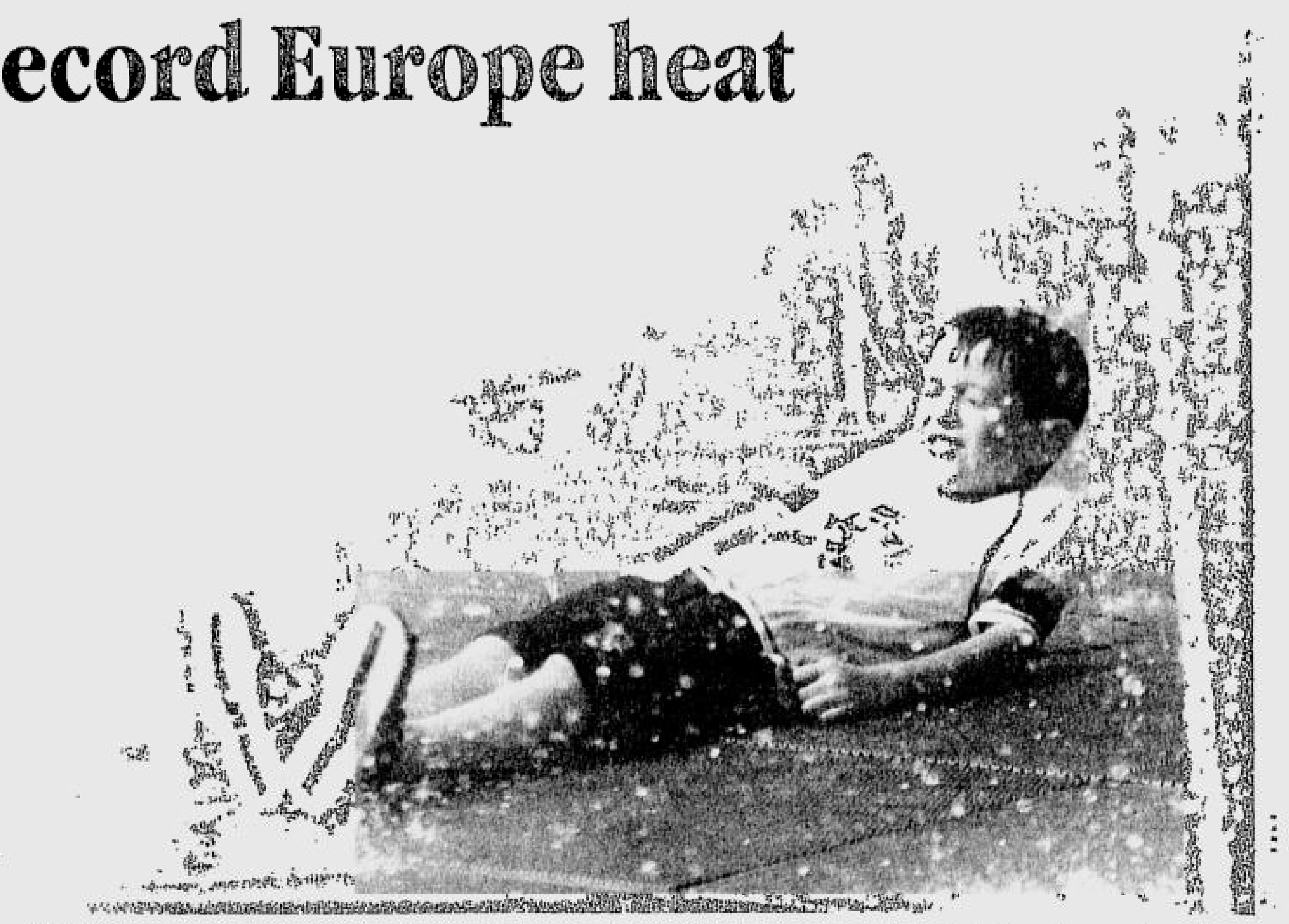
And in southern Italy, dense smoke from fresh wildfires forced authorities to close the famous "Amalfitana" scenic coastal route between Sorrento and Amalfi south of Naples for several hours.

At 32 degrees Celsius (90 degrees Fahrenheit), the waters of the Mediterranean have reached their highest temperatures in 45 years. Meteorologists said that their temperature could rise still further before reaching the traditional annual peak in mid-September.

Across western Europe suppliers of fans and air-conditioning equipment reported a run on stocks, as wilting householders sought relief from their mounting discomfort.

"There's not a single fan left in Vienna. We're having to get them as fast as possible from Hungary where it's less hot," said Guenther Waschatz, president of the Austrian Association of Electrical Goods Dealers.

Drinks and ice-cream sellers were also enjoying bumper trade, with the chamber of commerce in the Italian city of Milan reporting that the country had spent more than 560 million euros ($635 million) extra in June and July on cold nourishment. *AFP*



A YOUNG boy cools down by lying in a fountain in Barcelona, Spain, Aug. 7 as Europe continues to bake under a prolonged heat wave.

AP

Hamas militant killed in Israeli raid in West Bank

NABLUS, West Bank—Israeli soldiers raided a West Bank refugee camp and killed a Hamas militant on Friday during fighting that rocked a month-old ceasefire.

Violence also erupted at the Israel-Lebanon border, where Hezbollah attacked for the first time in a year Israeli posts at Shebaa Farms, regarded by the guerrilla group as Lebanese territory and by the UN as Israeli-occupied Syrian land.

There were no immediate reports of casualties in the attack, and Israeli warplanes responded with heavy air strikes on the eastern and southern edges of the nearby Lebanese border village of Kfar Shouba, witnesses said.

The violence came six days after a Hizbollah official was killed in a car bombing in Beirut which the Shi'ite Muslim organization blamed on Israel.

Commenting on the West Bank raid, an Israeli military source said the army had mounted a "pinpoint operation" in Askar refugee camp in the city of Nablus to detain a senior wanted Hamas member.

"Massive fire was opened at the force from the third floor of a building. The soldiers returned fire and there was a series of explosions on the same floor, indicating there were explosives there. As a result, the floor collapsed," he said.

The source said a gunman, identified by witnesses as a member of Hamas' military wing, was killed. Local residents said the militant the troops were out to detain was still at large.

Israel sent reinforcements into the area, including a tank, witnesses said.

The level of Israeli-Palestinian violence has dropped dramatically since Hamas and other militant groups that have killed hundreds of Israelis in a Palestinian uprising for statehood declared a three-month truce on June 29.

Israel has been mounting occasional raids in the West Bank to detain wanted Palestinians, accusing militant groups of preparing for renewed hostilities once the ceasefire ends. *Reuters*

US sends teams to help secure airports abroad

WASHINGTON—Washington has sent teams of aviation security experts to cities in Iraq, Europe and Asia to help secure commercial airports from terrorists using shoulder-fired missiles to down passenger jets, US officials said Thursday.

Brian Roehrkasse, a spokesperson with the Department of Homeland Security, said US officials have been sent to help improve security in Basra and Baghdad in Iraq, as well as in a number of Asian and European airports, which he declined to specify for security reasons.

Investigators from the federal Transportation Security Administration, are working with the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Department of State and other US agencies in the effort to help improve on-ground security at the airports, he said.

"We are going to countries that want to work with us," Roehrkasse said.

"They are airports that have US-flagged aircraft flying in and out of them."

Similar efforts to improve airport security from portable missile attacks are already underway at US airports, Roehrkasse said.

The move is part of the federal government's response to recent intelligence reports suggesting that a terrorist attack using small heat-seeking missiles may be imminent.

Roehrkasse said that while "the US intelligence community does not have any specific intelligence that al-Qaida intends to use these weapons for a major attack against US commercial aviation," officials felt concerned about a growing possibility of such an attack.

The best-known portable missiles are the American-made Stinger and the Russian-made SA-7.

Aviation officials have said the missiles, which can be bought on the black market for as little as 5,000 dollars apiece, can reach commercial aircraft from as far as 50 km from an airport and can reach altitudes of about 3000 meters for older systems and 5500 meters feet for newer weapons. *AFP*

LOVELY FACE, ASTOUNDING VOICE

Maria Callas, seen in this undated photo by Christian Steiner, is one of the star musicians who have faced the camera of what the New York Times called "the world's premier photographer of divas and conductors."

AP

After confirming first gay bishop, Episcopalians okay same-sex unions

MINNEAPOLIS—Gay advocates in the Episcopal Church will leave their national meeting with two victories: approval of the first openly gay bishop and an affirmation that same-sex blessing ceremonies are "an acceptable practice in the church."

The measure on same-sex unions was not what advocates had hoped. Bishops rejected creating an official liturgy for the ceremonies.

But gays and their conservative opponents agree that the measure, which received final approval the day before the convention was to end Friday, signaled broader acceptance of homosexuality in the denomination.

The Rev. Francis Wade, head of the liturgical committee that wrote the document, said he interpreted the measure to mean that dioceses conducting same-sex blessings "are operating within the parameters of the understanding of this church and its doctrine and discipline."

Wade's explanation marks a reversal from how several bishops viewed the document when they approved it Wednesday. Those bishops had described the statement as only an acknowledgment that same-sex unions are being blessed in local dioceses—not an endorsement.

The Episcopal gay advocacy group Integrity said "we understand the language clearly to give national license" to the ceremonies.

The Rev. Kendall Harmon, a leading conservative who lobbied against the document, said what "seems like a compromise" actually isn't.

"Let's be honest. This is authorization," Harmon said. "It sanctions homosexual behavior."

The House of Bishops approved the measure first, on a voice vote Wednesday. They cut from the original proposal the plan on drafting standard language for the ceremonies for an official church prayer book.

Many said they wanted to weaken the measure out of concern for church unity following Tuesday's contentious confirmation of the Rev. V. Gene Robinson, a gay clergyman, as New Hampshire's bishop.

The House of Deputies, a legislative body comprised of clergy and lay people, approved the amended version of the document Thursday.

The deputies used a complex voting procedure that required clergy and lay people in diocesan delegations to cast separate ballots. The measure needed a majority of votes in each delegation to win. In the combined results, 120 delegations voted yes and 72 voted no. The votes of 24 delegations were not counted because their members were divided.

The document said, "We recognize that local faith communities are operating within the bounds of our common life as they explore and experience liturgies celebrating and blessing same-sex unions." *AP*

Schwarzenegger could face rocky road to Sacramento

By Erica Werner

LOS ANGELES—Arnold Schwarzenegger took even his political advisers by surprise when he said he was running for governor of California, and his candidacy dramatically reshaped the state's recall election. But what does he stand for?

While the Austrian-born actor's accent and trademark quips are familiar to millions, he has offered few clues about how he would handle California's knotty problems, from a staggering budget deficit to an affordable housing shortage to traffic gridlock.

His public comments Thursday, a day after he announced his candidacy on a television talk show, "The Tonight Show with Jay Leno," didn't offer much illumination.

The first media question Schwarzenegger faced after picking up candidacy papers at the Los Angeles County Registrar-Recorder's office: "What is your plan to cut the state budget?"

"We will have a plan very soon, a detailed plan on how to face those kinds of problems and how to solve those kinds of problems," he responded. "The important thing to know is that we have a crisis here in California. We have a $38 billion budget deficit that we have to deal with."

The effort to recall the current governor, Gray Davis, has been fueled by voter discontent over the state's weak economy and its budget deficit.

Schwarzenegger, who will run as a Republican, avoided specifics, saying he wanted to ensure that all Californians had "a great job, a fantastic job" and that he would focus on children's issues. But the former bodybuilder likely will have to start outlining at least some of his plans in detail if he wants to muscle through a half-dozen seasoned politicians, from Democrats to conservative Republicans, with gubernatorial ambitions as fierce as his own.

Before announcing his candidacy, Schwarzenegger's lone foray into state politics came last year, when he drafted and successfully championed Proposition 49, a state ballot initiative aimed at dedicating as much as $550 million annually to before- and-after-school programs.

"You all know that I am very passionate about children's issues," he said Thursday. "I've been involved in education and after-school programs for 10 years."

He also focused on political reform, criticizing the influence of special interest groups in the state Capitol.

"What we have right now in Sacramento is self-interest first —self-interest of the politicians, self-interest of special interest groups, and we have to reverse all that," he said. "It's public Interest first."

Democrats immediately attacked Schwarzenegger as inexperienced and not up to the job.

"It's fine to say you're going to clean house. It's another thing to know what you can do and what you can't do under the California Constitution and the laws that have been established to date," Sen. Dianne Feinstein told CNN. "And I don't think people are going to fall for old cliches."

And for Republicans to the actor's right politically, the moderate Schwarzenegger could be a target for his social views. He has described himself as "very liberal" on social issues," noting that he favors legalized abortion, gay adoptions and "sensible gun controls," including a ban on assault weapons.

Schwarzenegger has other vulnerabilities, including allegations of groping and womanizing. When he contemplated running for governor last year, a Davis strategist bombarded newsroom fax machines with articles detailing such claims—and one of the same negative articles already has re-circulated.

Schwarzenegger denied the allegations at the time, and some of his co-stars came to his defense. During his appearance on the Leno show, he quickly sought to inoculate himself against such charges, saying he knew the attacks against him would include branding him as "a womanizer." *AP*

ACTOR Arnold Schwarzenegger gives a thumbs up gesture as he arrives to pull papers at the Los Angeles Registrar's office in Norwalk, California Aug. 7, to file to be a candidate for governor of California in the Oct. 7 recall election.

REUTERS

Activists tell Coke, Pepsi to quit India

BOMBAY—US beverage giants Coca-Cola and Pepsi were Thursday told to quit India as activists stepped up a "break bottle" campaign launched after a study said their soft drinks contained lethal doses of pesticides.

Activists from powerful political groups such as the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and the Samajwadi Party smashed Coke and Pepsi bottles and trampled on cardboard cups bearing their logos outside Bombay's busy Churchgate railway station.

"Coke and Pepsi quit India. You are playing with our lives," shouted a mob of nearly 100 activists, which also forced Coke and Pepsi outlets in and around the station to down shutters.

The activists tore down posters of film stars such as Shahrukh Khan, Aamir Khan and Kareena Kapoor who advertise the two brands.

The youth wing of the BJP had on Wednesday burnt posters of the stars as part of their protest.

"The two multinationals have to get out of India. We are giving them 10 days by which time final test reports of these drinks will come," said Aslam Sheikh, president of the youth wing of the Samajwadi party.

"If the reports are positive for pesticides we will break every bottle the companies make. We will burn down their vehicles carrying these drinks on the roads."

The parliament in New Delhi Wednesday took the two beverages off MPs' canteen menu following the release of a damaging report the day before by the Centre for Science and Environment, a Delhi-based private organization. *AFP*

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Senator says sale of guns to guerrillas incredible

OPPOSITION Sen. Rodolfo Biazon said he doesn't believe accusations made by a group of mutinous soldiers that the defense department and the military were selling guns to Moro guerrillas but he urged an investigation of accusations that military men plotted the Davao City bombings.

In an interview with the program Dobol A sa Dobol B over station dzBB, Biazon said it was far fetched for the Department of Defense to be able to sell guns to the guerrillas.

He told program host Arnold Clavio that the same charge was hurled against the department when he was still chief of the Armed Forces of the Philippines.

"It's been an issue before, but I don't think it's happening," Biazon told dzBB.

But he said a report made by one of the mutinous soldiers that a ranking officer ordered one soldier to hurl a grenade at a mosque in Davao should be investigated.

'HARUROT'S EFFECTS

₱1.9B in crops destroyed

ILAGAN, Isabela—Super typhoon "Harurot" destroyed P1.9-billion worth of crops, livestock and infrastructure in Isabela, according to a final report from a multi-agency team that assessed the typhoon's damage in the province. "Two weeks after the typhoon, the province remains suffering. Electricity and communication lines have yet to be fully restored," Armand Araneta, Isabela civil defense officer, said.

Isabela officials lamented the delay in the release of the P35-million calamity fund that President Macapagal-Arroyo had promised for Cagayan Valley provinces hit by the typhoon.

Provincial administrator Antonio Paguirigan said they have inquired about the fund release from Malacañang and the Department of Budget and Management but they have yet to receive a response.

Paguirigan said the fund, once released, would be divided among the four provinces in Cagayan Valley. Cagayan Valley farmers began rehabilitating farms even without the promised fund from the government.

According to Agriculture Secretary Luis Lorenzo Jr., Cagayan Valley, a primary rice and corn producer in the country, would need P90 million to deal with the typhoon's effects.

The Department of Agriculture in the region has bought P800,000 worth of vegetable seedlings that will be given to farmers. *Villamor Visaya Jr., PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

Iloilo steps up watch for dengue, typhoid fever

By Ma. Diosa Labiste, *PDI Visayas Bureau*

ILOILO CITY—Halfway into the rainy season, health offices in Iloilo have stepped up the monitoring of cases of dengue hemorrhagic fever and typhoid fever in Western Visayas.

While the Iloilo Provincial Health Office (IPHO) and the regional epidemiology unit of the Department of Health (DOH) are saying that this year's number of cases was lower than last year's, they expected more as the rainy season progresses.

Data from the DOH showed that there were a total of 288 dengue cases and 721 typhoid fever cases in the region from January to Aug. 3 this year. The cases were all found in seven hospitals designated as sentinel sites.

There were 721 cases of typhoid fever from January to July this year. The IPHO reported a total of 428 typhoid cases, with three deaths, in Iloilo.

Dengue is caused by the virus carried by day-biting mosquitoes. Its symptoms are headache, joint and muscle pain, appearance of tiny red spots on the skin, nosebleed and bleeding of the gum. Internal bleeding may occur and this is often fatal.

Typhoid fever is caused by the *salmonella typhi bacteria* from eating food and water contaminated with human waste. Bouts with typhoid fever are accompanied by fever, weakness, loss of appetite and diarrhea or constipation.

Negros Occidental had the most dengue cases in Western Visayas with 149. Iloilo province and city has 123 cases; Aklan, 10; Antique, 5; and Guimaras, 1. Capiz has no reported cases yet.

Both the DOH and IPHO said this year's number of dengue cases was much lower than last year's. The DOH reported 807 cases in the region for the same period last year. The IPHO said there were more than 300 cases in Iloilo from January to August last year, with a rash of cases from June to July.

"There is no outbreak this year as reported in local media. It is expected that we will have more dengue cases during the rainy season," said Peachie Gallardo, a nurse at DOH's epidemiology unit.

Dr. Carmen Bayate, IPHO's head, said that many of the dengue cases this year appeared late last month due to the drought.

DOJ junks murder charges vs mayor

By Jerome Aning

THE DEPARTMENT of Justice has dismissed for lack of evidence the triple murder case filed in March by the National Bureau of Investigation against Iriga City Mayor Emmanuel Alfelor and eight other companions.

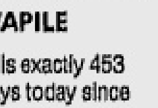
In a 13-page resolution dated July 29, the DOJ panel of prosecutors said the liability of the accused "cannot be established on the mere basis of allegation." It disregarded the testimony of Alfelor's wife Madeleine because court rules prohibit spouses from testifying for or against each other.

Also acquitted were city administrator Aldo Turiano, his wife Rita, Jessie Intia, SPO1 Armando Padi, Alfelor's farm manager Bong Gazmen, security guard Santiago Tampoco and Richard Nacario.

Alfelor was tagged in the murder of Department of Trade and Industry district officer Reynaldo Licup, his driver Geoffrey Remodo and car mechanic Rommel Barillos in Baao, Camarines Sur on Dec. 2, 2002. Two armed men shot the three while they were inside a videoke bar.

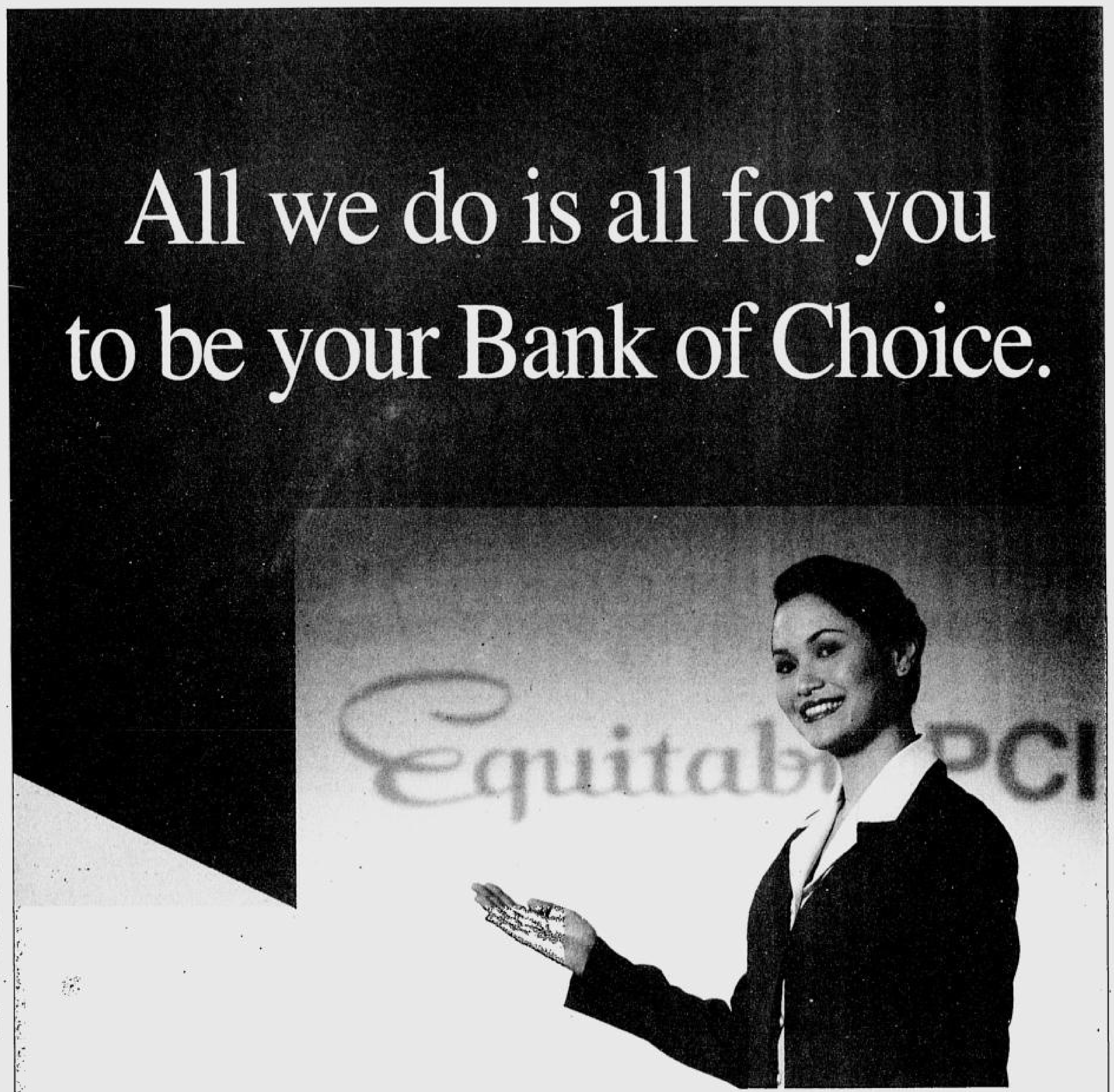
A witness tagged the gunman as Jesse Intia. The killings became more controversial after Madeleine came out in public to point to her husband Emmanuel as the mastermind.

Countdown for Justice



WAPILE

IT is exactly 453 days today since Pagadian journalist Edgar Damalerio was slain in cold blood. The principal suspect, police officer Guillermo Wapile, remains at large after escaping while in the custody of the police.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Editor Jun Bandayrel
Bureau Chief Edralyn L. Benedicto

Bat not seen since 1991 trapped in Cebu backwoods

By Juan L. Mercado
Cebu City

OUT on her first-ever field survey, a young researcher from the University of San Carlos hit local science's version of a jackpot: trapping an endangered fruit bat—not seen in the Visayas since 1991—in the back hills of a southern Cebu town.

Reizel Nery Pamaong and three colleagues from the USC Research Office trapped a tube-nosed fruit bat (*Nyctimene rabopri*) on mist-covered Mount Obo in Dalaguete town, at dawn of Aug. 4. That day also happened to be 27th birthday of the fledgling scientist from Iligan City.

Pamaong and fellow researchers, Sharen Joy Alivio, Cyrstabelle Sayson and Mark Ian Andres, are studying the population status of bat species.

Just before sunrise, they broke into cheers as the rare furry creature, characterized by extended nose tubes, flew into the net.

"This discovery is an important step in bat research on Cebu Island," a USC official enthused. "This species is found only on three islands of the Visayas—Negros, Sibuyan and Cebu."

The well-known Silliman University zoologist, Dr. Disocoro Robor, first discovered the tube-nosed fruit bat in southern Negros in 1964. It was named by international scientists, like Peterson and Heaney, as *Nyctimene rabopri*, to honor Robor.

UNIVERSITY of San Carlos researcher Reizel Nery Pamaong found a rare fruit bat, not seen since 1991, in the hills of Cebu on her 27th birthday on Aug. 4.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Enigma

Very little is known of this fruit-eating bat's biology and habitat. Population movements and pressure on forests led to its disappearance. Today, it is considered an endangered species.

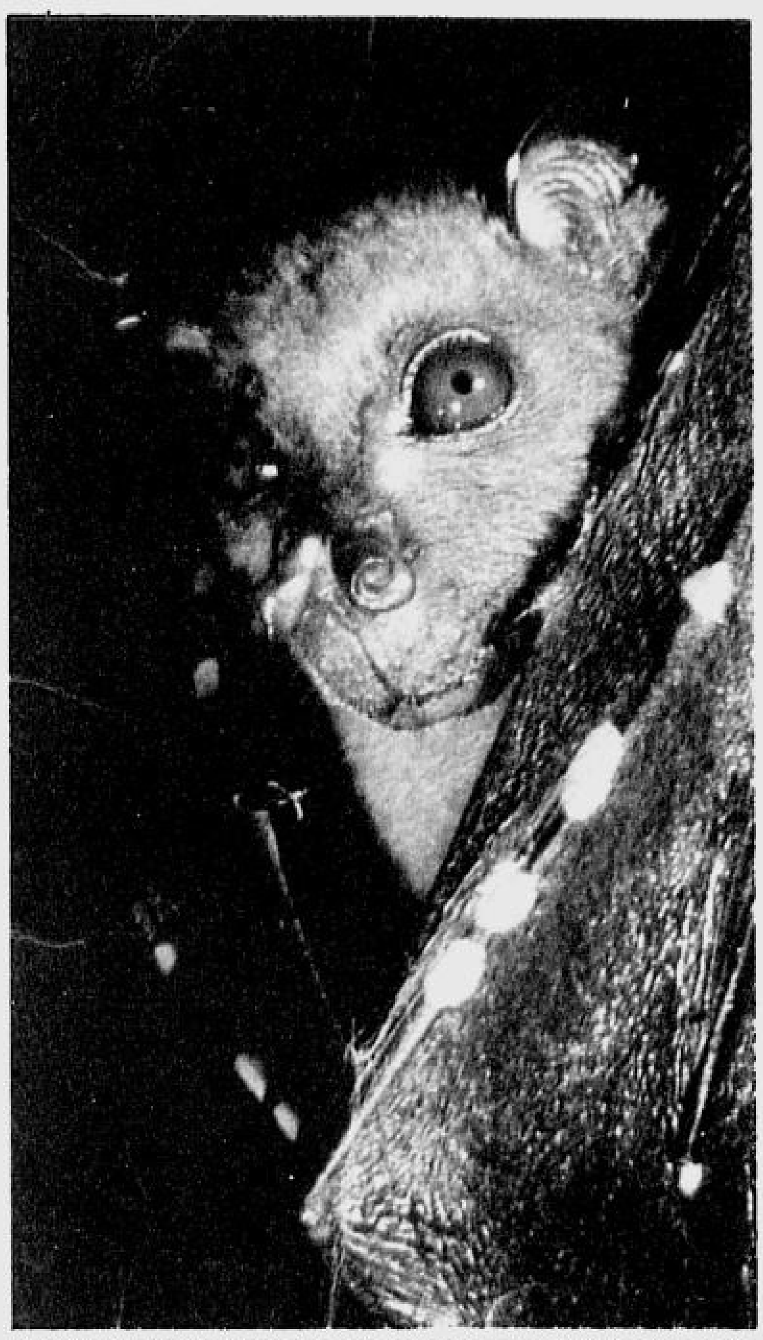
Previous to the Dalaguete capture, only two other specimens were caught recently. In 1986, a female bat was trapped on Sibuyan Island. Four years later, a male specimen was trapped on Mount Uling of Cebu.

Both catches were made by Roland Miller of Switzerland.

Dalaguete is located along the southeastern coast of Cebu Island. It is 85 km from Cebu City and has been densely populated since the early Spanish period.

The town's corn-based agriculture—originally favored by the dry climate—has steadily declined. Three removals, repeated corn cultivation on steep slopes, and lack of a major river system have resulted in severe ecological stress.

Pamaong, Alivio, Sayson and Andres used "mist nets" to trap the bats. Their "radar" is less efficient than those of bats that feed on insect and often swerve from nets too late.


A TUBE-NOSED fruit bat, an endangered species of fruit-eating bats, is found only on the Visayan islands of Cebu, Negros and Sibuyan.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Kids' dream of having books comes true through foundation

By Ma. Diosa Labiste
Ajuy, Iloilo

SECOND-GRADER Shiela Deala smiled as she looked at the colorful new books on a shelf.

"I would like to read them, all of them," she told a visitor at the Valentin Dignadice Primary School.

Her teachers were also happy despite their lack of sleep from preparing the food and sun shade for the visitors. Matilde Sumanggid, a multigrade teacher [one who simultaneously handles classes in two or more grade levels], said the books could help improve the school's reading scores, which is among the lowest in Ajuy town, some 90 km north of Iloilo City.

The books were donated by the Sa Aklat Sisikat (SAS) Foundation as part of its program to cultivate among public school children the love and habit of reading.

The SAS has teamed up with the Coca-Cola Foundation Philippines, which built "Little Red Schoolhouses," three-room structures with roofs painted red in keeping with Coca-Cola's corporate color.

Their partnership at the Valentin Dignadice Primary School aims to give children of poor fishers and farmers a headstart as their education has somehow been slowed down by poverty and lack of government funds to buy books and repair dilapidated classrooms.

On July 15, the reading project was launched as part of the nationwide celebration of National Children's Book Day. Education Undersecretary for Programs Fe Hidalgo flew from Manila to witness the turnover of the books, if only to underscore the fact that children can be taught to read and love books if they are available. Her presence also indicated the Department of Education's approval of such partnership to help school children.

The project targeted Grade 4 pupils who have been given reading and comprehension lessons when they were in the lower grades.

Poor performance

Ajuy Mayor Jett Rojas said elementary and primary schools in his town performed poorly because of the lack of public funds to buy books and workbooks and to train teachers. Results of last year's achievement test in Ajuy District showed that the 26 public schools earned a mean performance score (MPS) of 47.42 percent in seven subjects taught in the elementary grades. The passing rate is 75 percent.

Valentin Dignadice's MPS was 33 percent, which is generally closer to the scores of five other primary schools that have multigrade classes.

According to results of a 2002-03 reading assessment test conducted by the DepEd, close to two-thirds of Grade 1 pupils at the Valentin Dignadice are non-readers. Of the 33 enrolled in Grade 1, only seven can read.

The education department's policy is "no reading, no pass."

Teachers say reading is crucial in tackling school work and those who cannot read often lose interest in school because they cannot catch up with the readers.

Marissa Deploma, a Grade 1-2 teacher, said the non-readers generally became readers by the time they reached Grade 3. Teaching them how to read required efforts and skills on the part of the teachers.

"Children have no confidence reading their textbooks, so I resort to spoon feeding," she said.

Mary Margaret Barro, SAS executive director, said she hoped that the project's approach toward reading would work for Valentin Dignadice. The foundation trained its two teachers, Sumanggid and Deploma, on how to promote the reading habit among Grade 4 students.

60 titles

A total of 60 storybook titles were given to the school, along with a progress chart and mural to monitor how many books were being read. Each reader is given a "reading passport" on which to write the name of the book, author, characters and one or two sentences about the story, as well as lessons they learned or why a certain character has inspired them.

After the readers filled up the page, the teacher would sign it.

The children are given 60 feathers to pin to a huge Ibong Adarna mural, each feather representing a book. The more books they read, the more feathers they could pin.

The project is implemented for 31 days, after which it is evaluated. Each child is expected to read at least 20 books within the period.

Barro said the book titles were chosen for their portrayal of Filipino values, readability index, and literary values. The books seek to instill pride of Filipino identity, commitment and excellence.

The publications were also chosen because they can be read and understood by a Grade 4 student from a public school system.

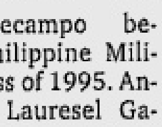
They come from a collection of contemporary Filipino children's literature, and are all written, illustrated and published in the country. Some of the titles are Alfred Yuson's "The Boy Who Ate Stars," Victoria Añonueva's "Si Pilandok at Ang Manok Na Nangingitlog ng Ginto," and Carla Pacis' "Mayroon Akong Alagang Puno."

A catalogue of the SAS books said "The Boy Who Ate Stars" is about the loss of trees and stars because of human greed. It teaches the reader to take care of the environment and to temper the "hunger" in one's heart. The moral of the stoiry: "Greed is not good, and peace shall only come to boys and girls, and men and women of good wishes."

Cecile Alcantara, president of the Coca-Cola Foundation Philippines, said the reading project would be implemented in 18 other Little Red Schoolhouses all over the country.

Business as usual

BACOLOD EXCHANGE



Ninfa R. Leonarda

EVEN when reports of a brewing coup d'etat was heating up in the airlanes, people in Bacolod City and Negros Occidental seemed to feel quite detached from it all, most of them confident that the matter would be resolved quickly, and everything would be back to normal.

After all, this was not the first time that the country had gone through similar attempts at takeovers, one only has to go back a few years to the Aquino administration to realize that the poor woman had gone through about half a dozen of them.

In those days, the action mostly took place in Metro Manila, with the rest of the country keeping tabs, or cheering whichever side they were on via radio, TV or print media.

Out in the provinces, towns and cities, it was business as usual, as it had been even during the most earthshaking of them all, the world-famous Edsa I revolt. Up to the time it was announced that the Marcoses had been spirited away by an American helicopter, the Edsa event had been watched and prayed for by Filipinos everywhere.

This time, however, the "coup," later renamed "mutiny," took on a more personal aspect with the disclosure that among the leaders were several young officers from the province, especially Capt. Milo Maestrecampo, 32, from Talisay City, Bacolod's closest neighbor in the north.

Immediately, the Maestrecampo family found themselves in the midst of media attention, with reporters flocking to their residence in Talisay. The officer's background was dissected, and it was found that both his parents, Vicente and Merlita, were retired teachers from special government schools. Vicente taught at an agricultural high school, while Merlita had retired from a school of fishery.

Other Negrense mutineers were Capt. Gary Alejano and Julius Navales, and, along with Captain Maestrecampo belonged to the Philippine Military Academy Class of 1995. Another Negrense, Lauresel Gabales, belonged to PMA Class 2000.

It was only then that local residents recalled that a few days ago, the local papers had reported about what was described as a suspicious transfer of a bunch of soldiers from the province. The group was said to have gone to Iloilo by boat, but official explanations were that all those on board had proper orders to go.

Later events brought back the speculations that there had, indeed, been reason to suspect the movement of those troops.

There are now attempts to find out if the names of those in the list of alleged mutineers jibe with those on the travel orders of the soldiers who had sailed out on that day.

* * *

THE DAY the mutiny was percolating in Manila was also when the teachers of the fourth congressional District of Negros Occidental gathered themselves at the house of former Ambassador Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco in Balbina, Pontevedra, to express gratitude to their benefactor.

Danding and his Negrense wife, Gretchen, and their son, Congressman Charlie, and his wife Rio had about two years ago provided P16 million to a program called Project FREE, that enabled teachers from the district to take up master and doctoral degrees under a special arrangement with the University of St. La Salle in Bacolod.

There were more than a thousand teachers gathered that Saturday, all of them, already holders of master's or doctoral degrees, and all still connected with the schools in the district. One wonders how the Department of Education will deal with what is likely to be an inequality in qualifications among its teachers in the province, with elementary and high schools in this one district now having a surfeit of M.A. and Ph.D. holders.

Elated at the response of the teachers, Cojuangco pledged to continue funding the program for the 800 or so mentors who have not yet acquired the same status. The promise was made in the presence of USLS president Bro. Gus Boquer and several of his officials. Cojuangco also said he would initiate the same project in the district in Tarlac where his son Mark is also the congressman.

* * *

BUT POSSIBLY, the most shocking news to break out in the province recently was the disclosure that the local Graftwatch, that had been operating as a Corruption Prevention Unit, had been doing so without accreditation from the Office of the Ombudsman since 1993. The revelation, made in a letter of the Ombudsman in the Visayas to a barangay official in Sipalay City exploded like a bombshell, especially among those who had been pursued and charged by the Graftwatch chair, Dr. Patricio Tan, in all those 10 years.

The embittered officials, all of whose cases filed by Tan had been dismissed for being without merit by the Ombudsman, are now poised to file a variety of charges against him.

Tan has replied that his group would not seek accreditation until the Ombudsman settles his own complaints against their Visayas office.

Ironically, one charge that the Ombudsman has taken seriously and even elevated into a criminal case was one filed against Bacolod Mayor Luzviminda Valdez, not by Graftwatch but by members of the city council. The case is still pending.

Rebellion charges filed against Laarni

From page A1

determined to persecute us."

Thus, he said, "the junior officers are not guilty of asking her to step down since she was unconstitutionally placed."

"But the truth will come out. People will know the real score," he said in Filipino.

Laarni's side

In a telephone interview, Enriquez told the INQUIRER: "I don't know any of the officers and men involved in the July 27 Makati incident. Neither have I met any one of them."

Her counsel Rodriguez said: "Laarni categorically and absolutely denies any involvement in the alleged coup. The alleged raid on the Mandaluyong property was illegally conducted without a judicial search warrant. Having no search warrant, the items allegedly recovered in the premises could only have been planted there. Laarni will file criminal cases against these perpetrators for incriminating innocent persons under the Revised Penal Code. The case filed against Laarni is pure and simple political harassment. This is part of an orchestrated scheme by the government to link President Estrada to the July 27 Makati incident."

DILG Undersecretary Agnes Devanadera and Metro Manila police chief Deputy Director Reynaldo Velasco filed the complaint.

Justice Undersecretary Jose Calida said Laarni's sale of the townhouse to her "close friend" Magpoc was only a ruse.

Calida said Magpoc did not exercise any act of ownership or take control of the four-door, four-story townhouse, which is still under construction, even though a deed of sale was executed.

Enriquez allegedly sold the property in March 2001 because she was having difficulty in obtaining the necessary permits and clearances from the Mandaluyong city hall.

Erap not far behind?

"If Laarni is involved, then Erap is not far behind," Calida had said.

Escalona was included in the charges because his construction firm, JELP Real Estate Development Corp. which is building the townhouses, has for its address No. 1 Polk St., North Greenhills, San Juan—which happens to be Estrada's home.

Calida said the subpoenas for Enriquez and the others could be issued by Monday.

The charges were filed after police found ammunition, soldiers' personal belongings, canned goods, packs of noodles, two Magdalo flags and an armband when they raided the townhouse at the height of the July 27 mutiny.

Personal effects

The personal effects included the identification cards and other belongings of Army Capt. Ruperto Reaso and Marine Sgt. Jigger Paculba, Capt. Roel C. Molina, SSgt. Philip G. Vitales, and Sergeants Jovito Pacleb and Romelo Sy.

The soldiers have all been charged with the crime of coup d'etat before a Makati court.

The other personal effects reportedly belonged to Capt. Romulo Querado II, 1Lt. Rommel B. Bognalbal, Sgt. Mario A. Lopez, Pfcs. Lorenzo Bimmao and Gregorio Sandagon, SSgts. Lorenzo, Randy Matias and Florencio B. Manangon, and Sgt. Wilfredo Leal.

The Mandaluyong police raided the townhouse at around 3:30 p.m. on July 27 after receiving information from naval intelligence that it was being used as a safehouse by the mutineers.

A van was allegedly seen coming out of the townhouse compound with its passengers wearing camouflage uniforms and Magdalo armbands.

Raiding team members SPO1 Ruperto Balsamo Jr. and PO2 Vergelio O. Sinlao said that when they arrived, they saw two men, one in a camouflage uniform, running toward the back fence of the property.

"We followed the (two men) up to a creek but we lost sight of them and they made good their escape using an improvised ladder that had been left by the creek," the two policemen said in their joint affidavit.

When the two entered the property, they said they found ammunition and the soldiers' belongings in the second and fourth townhouse units.

According to Estrada, Laarni has never denied owning the townhouse in Mandaluyong, although she later transferred its ownership to Magpoc to secure an electrical permit from the local government.

"It was done for convenience ... in good faith," he said of the transfer of ownership.

"But for two years, nobody was staying there. For two years, Laarni did not visit the place [illegible] said. But real estate brokers [illegible] going to Laarni offering to [illegible] or buy the place.

"Maybe one of them knew the rebel soldiers," he said in Filipino.

Estrada, facing plunder charges at the Sandiganbayan, also made light of the fact that a copy of the thesis prepared by Navy Lt.(s.g) Antonio Trillanes IV, a mutiny leader, was found in Laarni's house.

"Was he studying there?" Estrada asked.

Determined to tell all

Magpoc said in her sworn affidavit that she saw on television on July 27 that the townhouse had been raided.

Alarmed, she immediately called up Enriquez who allegedly denied any knowledge about what was happening.

When Magpoc and her husband went to Enriquez's house at Wack-Wack Subdivision also in Mandaluyong at around 1 a.m. the following day, a certain "Attorney Flaminiano" arrived and offered his services, she said.

Flaminiano had allegedly come on Enriquez's orders after she saw that Magpoc and her husband Jojo were determined to tell all to the authorities.

Magpoc said she was worried about her children and her reputation because her name was being dragged into the controversy.

Flaminiano allegedly told Magpoc that they would meet again at lunch that day because he first had to go to the Sandiganbayan for a hearing and he was to meet with Estrada later that day.

One of Estrada's lawyers is named Jose Flaminiano but Magpoc did not give the lawyer's first name in her affidavit.

Magpoc said she learned later that the police wanted to talk to her so she called engineer Escalona on July 30, while she was on her way to meet with Flaminiano.

"Why did you put me in this situation? Didn't I have caretakers there? Why were they removed?" Magpoc said she asked Escalona.

Escalona allegedly answered: "Ma'am and Mayor said that I should tell them to leave temporarily."

"I was shocked at what I was hearing and I said, '*Sige ho*' (All right) and I then dropped the line," Magpoc said.

She did not say who "Ma'am" and "Mayor" were.

Magpoc said she arrived at Flaminiano's home and was shown the affidavit he had prepared for her.

While waiting at Greenhills, San Juan for her husband, who submitted the affidavit to the Mandaluyong police, Magpoc allegedly received a call from Flaminiano.

"I received a call from Attorney Flaminiano who told me in a soft voice, 'It's your call,' and then he went back to his normal voice and said 'The President is asking if you could hold the submission of your affidavit,'" Magpoc said.

When she answered that all she wanted was to get out of the difficult situation she was in, Flaminiano told her: "Wait, the President will talk to you."

Estrada then reportedly got on the line and asked her if she had submitted her affidavit. She told him that it was already being submitted.

"Then he told me, '*Paki lang, bukas niyo na lang isubmit, me naisip lang kami.* (Please submit it tomorrow. We just thought of something)," Magpoc said.

"I told him 'Try *ko po*.' Then he said 'Please lang ha," Magpoc said.

She said Enriquez later called her and asked about the whereabouts of her husband.

Magpoc said she told her he must be at the police station because she could not reach him on her cellular phone. *With a report from Luige del Puerto*

Doublespeak on double jeopardy

From page A1

the military tribunals could try the mutineers for other offenses punishable by military law.

"The DOJ believes that there should only be one trial. Having two trials would create problems traversing the area of double jeopardy," Datumanong told reporters during a press forum at the Ambassador Hotel in Manila.

Datumanong said he would talk with military officials to sort things out and avoid double jeopardy for the rebels. But he added that it would be up to the mutineers' lawyers to raise the issue before the courts.

Due process

"Since the DOJ has already filed the case before the Makati RTC, it all depends on what will be the action of the accused here. They can ask for reinvestigation, and I'm very sure the DOJ will look into whatever that is in accordance with our due process," Datumanong said.

"It will not be me who will ask the other court to refrain from proceeding further because it would constitute double jeopardy. That I think should be the proper function of the defense counsel," he added.

He said the military tribunal could deal with the "other aspects" of the alleged coup such as the rebels' statements against President Macapagal-Arroyo and Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes.

He noted that Congress must have been aware that coup d'etat was the equivalent of mutiny under the military law when they included it in the Revised Penal Code after the coup attempts against the Aquino administration.

"They must have seen that because many of the members of Congress are lawyers themselves. So Congress believed that it must be the civil court that will try it. That is what the DOJ believes," Datumanong, a former congressman, said.

"I'm very sure that when they put this (in the penal code), they meant that this coup d'etat case should be (tried) before the civil court," Datumanong added.

He said he would not bring this up with the President because she "does not interfere with these matters."

In a phone interview, acting Ombudsman Margarito Gervacio Jr. questioned the DOJ and NBI's handling of the mutiny case.

Gervacio said the deputy ombudsman for the military "has primary jurisdiction over the case."

"We are missing a point here. The proper forum, if a civil court will be resorted to in this mutiny—which is already under the Revised Penal Code—is the Office of the Ombudsman," Gervacio said.

Taking the helm after Ombudsman Simeon Marcelo went on leave Monday, Gervacio said he decided to raise the question of jurisdiction.

He explained that under the Constitution and Republic Act No. 6770, the Ombudsman Act of 1989, "acts committed by all public officials, whether or not they are office-related, will have to be investigated by the (Ombudsman)."

"Nobody can deny the fact that what the mutineers did in Makati was really an act ... of public officials who are soldiers in connection with their duties as soldiers, otherwise there will be no mutiny," he said, adding:

"Ergo, if they are public officials and the act done by the mutineers was in pursuance of their official functions as soldiers, the Office of the Ombudsman has the primary jurisdiction to conduct the preliminary investigation."

"Ergo, the complaint should have been filed by the NBI with our office here."

Although he admitted that the DOJ could handle the preliminary investigation, he said it could do so only as "deputies" of the Ombudsman.

Avoid duplication

After the matter was brought to the DOJ, he said, "we have not heard of any referral of the DOJ to us. Neither have I heard from our office that we have informed the DOJ about it or whether we are getting into the act."

An NBI lawyer yesterday defended the filing of rebellion charges against 321 mutineers and said it did not constitute double jeopardy.

NBI Interpol chief Atty. Ricardo Diaz said the filing of charges against the rebel soldiers was part of the bureau's duties as stated in their mandate.

He pointed out that the rebel soldiers committed a violation of the law and must therefore be charged.

"We have a legal mandate to investigate crimes, and it is a crime that happened (on July 27). And we investigate for the purpose of filing charges," Diaz told reporters. *With reports from Leila B. Salaverria and TJ Burgonio*

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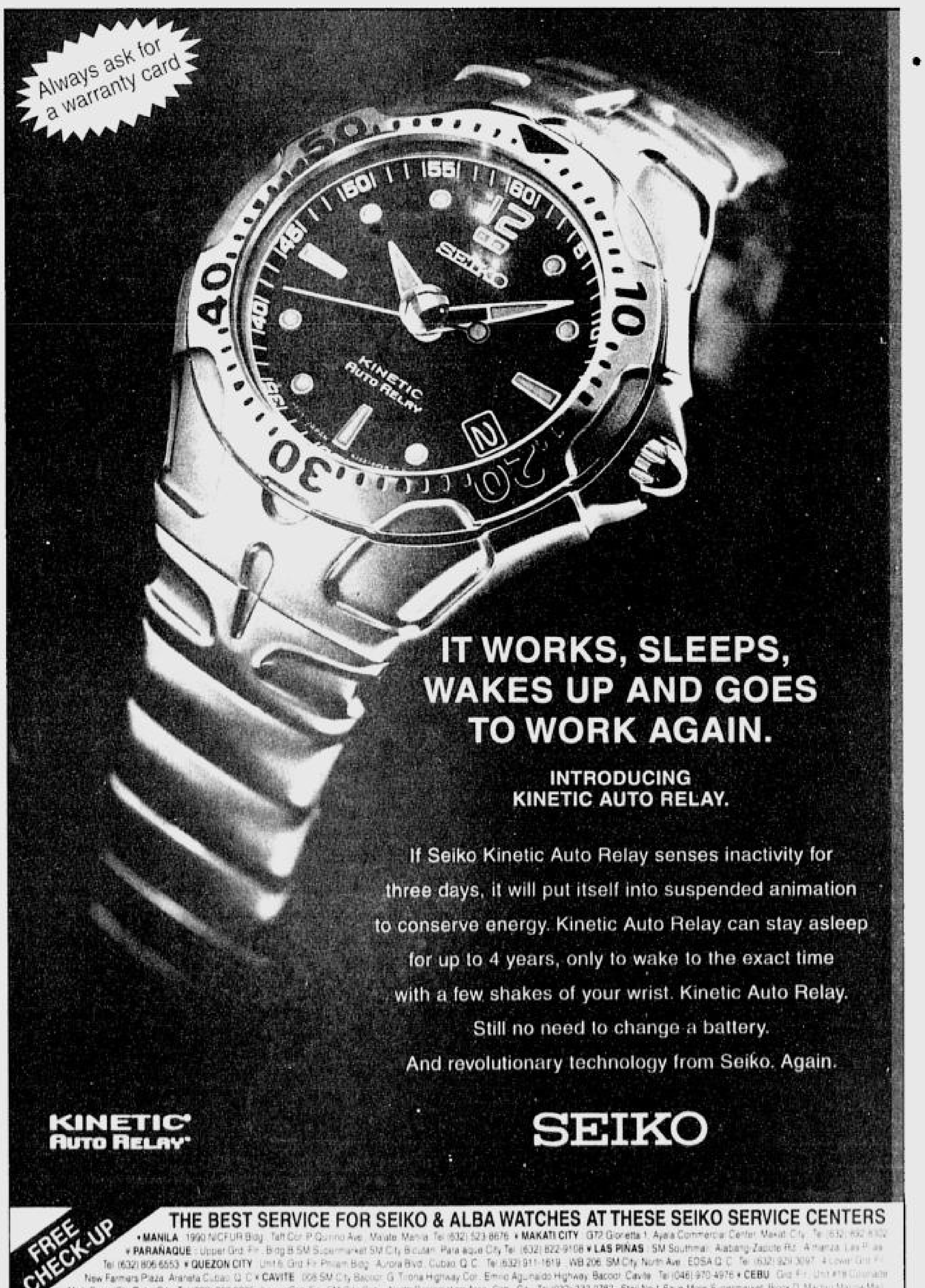

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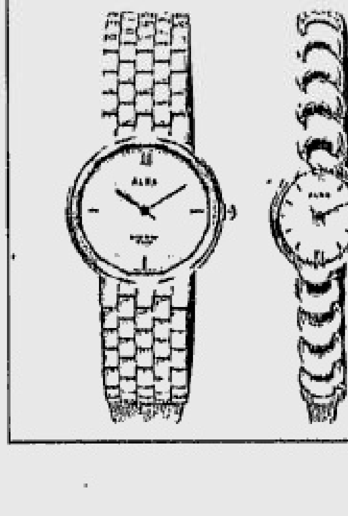

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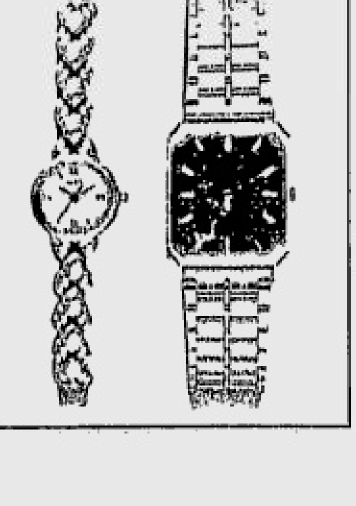


Who was that woman with the garbage bags?

By Christian V. Esguerra

WHO was that woman?

Hours before the house of Ramon "Eki" Cardenas in Dasmariñas Village was raided on July 28, a National Bureau of Investigation agent said he saw a woman placing two black garbage bags in front of the house.

The "trash" bags contained empty boxes of newly purchased grenades, ammunition and flashlights and a receipt for a 45-caliber pistol magazine, NBI agent Roberto Divinagracia wrote in an affidavit.

The bags, he said, also contained a "movement order" supposedly signed by Ltjg. Ronald Galicia, one of the officers who seized Oakwood.

The sighting of the woman and the subsequent discovery of the trash bags' contents strengthened the NBI's resolve to storm Cardenas' house where agents later discovered more damaging evidence against the former Estrada administration official.

Cardenas' lawyer, Rene Saguisag, yesterday dared the NBI to identify and present the woman to the public.

"She's just a figment of (NBI director Reynaldo) Wycoco's creative imagination," he told the INQUIRER.

"It's very easy to come up with that story to implicate Eki in the so-called coup."

But Edmund Arugay, NBI director for Metro Manila, yesterday said the agency was standing by Divinagracia's affidavit.

"We don't have the identity of the woman and she's not under our custody," he said. "But what's important are the things we found at Cardenas' house."

In his two-page affidavit, Divinagracia said he conducted a surveillance of the Cardenas property where he allegedly saw the woman and a Ford E-150 truck parked inside the compound.

He said he checked the contents of the garbage bags after the truck had left.

Divinagracia said he personally knew Galicia because they were both members of Philippine Military Academy Class 1997.

It's elementary but NBI didn't do it

By Christian Esguerra

THE NBI appears to have made a glaring mistake.

A top government official admitted to the INQUIRER yesterday that the NBI had failed to lift fingerprints and footmarks at the house of Ramon "Eki" Cardenas—an elementary and routinary procedure at the scene of a crime.

Had there been prints available, these could have been compared to those of the mutineers', the official said.

"If any of the prints matched any of the rebels'," he said, "it would be easier to prove that the Cardenas house was used as a staging area by the mutineers."

The investigator said it would now be illogical to return to the house to lift prints.

"The place has been contaminated and agents can't go in without a court order."

GMA lauds military but orders probe of Edris' death

From page A1

"I commend the Armed Forces southern command for accounting for another notorious terrorist," Ms Macapagal said in a speech during the Land Bank of the Philippines' "Gawad Pitak" awards. "The long hand of justice will catch up with these characters one way or another. The AFP is directed to inform the public of the full circumstances of the slaying of Edris to obviate any reports questioning the rules of engagement."

Benefit of the doubt

Ignacio Bunye, spokesperson for the President, said in an interview with Radyo ng Bayan that the alleged involvement of the MILF in the killing would also be covered by the investigation on the "actual shooting incident."

Bunye defended the military and said it should be given the benefit of the doubt.

But he conceded that Indonesian bomber Al-Ghozi and Omar Opik Lasal better be captured alive.

"Our authorities really did everything to go after Edris," he said. "And I think they should even be congratulated instead of being subjected to all this talk."

The bodies of Edris and Ismael will be turned over to local government officials for burial in accordance with Muslim rites, according to Jesus Dureza, the President's assistant for Mindanao.

Sham

Osmeña said his Lanao contact "suspected" that Edris had been in military custody for some time, and that the reported arrest Thursday was "a sham."

He laughed off the military's claim that Edris and Ismael were nabbed at a checkpoint.

"No fugitive, especially a high-profile one like Edris, would recklessly pass through a checkpoint," the senator said.

Osmeña noted the military's reported confiscation of two .45-cal pistols from the two men. "Yet strangely enough," he added, "when they no longer had guns and were already in custody, Edris and Ismael decided to put up a fight and grabbed the rifles of their escorts. Did the author of that yarn expect us to believe [this] worn-out story?"

Osmeña also said that while "dead men tell no tales," the narration of his contacts were "far more credible" than the military report.

He pointed out that with Edris dead, a full disclosure of the mysterious escape from Camp Crame would be possible only if Al-Ghozi were recaptured.

"We can only hope that [Al-Ghozi] would not be killed while trying to grab his captors' rifles," Osmeña said.

Vital witness

In a phone interview, MILF spokesperson Eid Kabalu said they were still checking whether Ismael was a member of their group.

"We have so many names like that," he said, adding that the shooting of Edris and Ismael could have been "scripted" by the military.

"We have no such report on the ground," Kabalu added. "Why would they kill him? He's a vital witness."

But the AFP's Garcia justified the shooting, saying that government troops followed rules of engagement and "acted accordingly" when faced with "imminent danger."

Pending receipt of the full report on the incident, Garcia could not provide other details such as the number of soldiers escorting Edris and Ismael, and the number of gunshot wounds they sustained.

But he was certain that Edris was not cuffed at the time of shooting, pointing out that soldiers did not carry handcuffs during operations. "If ever, suspects are usually tied up," he said.

Garcia said the unit on the ground, and not General Headquarters, would probably conduct the investigation.

"We are going to be transparent, as required by the President, and as we have always been," he said.

Grateful

Director General Hermogenes Ebdane Jr., Philippine National Police chief, is profuse in his gratitude to the soldiers who killed Edris.

Ebdane said that while he would have wanted Edris taken alive, he was content that the latter had at least been accounted for.

He defended the military against suggestions that Edris had been summarily executed, saying there were instances when law enforcers had to "make the decision on the ground" and protect themselves against highly dangerous captives like Edris.

But he expressed relief that the PNP was "not involved" in this new controversy.

Rep. Prospero Pichay Jr. (Lakas, Surigao del Sur), chair of the House committee on national defense, called for full disclosure of the capture and killing of Edris.

He addressed the call to the PNP, from whose custody Edris and Al-Ghozi escaped, and to the military, warning that the two agencies might reap the "negative public perception that Edris had been killed intentionally."

Suspicious

In an interview with dzBB, Bunye was told by anchor Rene Sta. Cruz that Edris' killing had given rise to speculation that it was done to silence him.

Sta. Cruz also noted suspicions that Al-Ghozi was deliberately allowed to escape, and with Edris dead, the truth could no longer be obtained.

To these, Bunye said: "There are speculations like that, but let us give the benefit of the doubt to the escorts [of Edris]. What is important is he was captured. There are still two fugitives, so maybe next time, let's try to capture them alive."

In another interview over dzBB, Bunye said Southern Command chief Lt. Gen. Roy Kyamko reported Edris' slay to the President on Thursday.

"Based on General Kyamko's report, the fugitives wanted to fight and grabbed the weapons of their captors so their escorts were forced to fire on them," he said. "We accept this incident because even if we were in their shoes, we will do the same." *With reports from TJ Burgonio and Christian V. Esguerra*

Military believes Al-Ghozi hiding in MILF camp

By the PDI Mindanao Bureau

SULTAN NAGA DIMAPORO, Lanao del Norte—The Armed Forces yesterday said it had mobilized ground troops in preparation for an assault on a Moro Islamic Liberation Front camp inside the Sampinitan complex.

It is believed that fugitive Indonesian bomber Fathur Rohman al-Ghozi is hiding in Sampinitan.

Lt. Gen. Roy Kyamko, chief of the AFP Southern Command, confirmed that the troop movement toward Sampinitan—which straddles the boundaries of Rebokon, Bangko and Dalama villages—occurred as early as Thursday evening.

He said Al-Ghozi was being held by an MILF group led by Salip Aloy Alsree and a Commander Latip.

Military intelligence operatives said they ascertained Al-Ghozi's location after the arrest and killing Thursday of Abdulmukim Ong Edris and Mahmoud Ismael, an MILF sub-commander. *(See story on Page A1.)*

The truce monitoring committees of the government and the MILF are to meet today in Cotabato City to finalize the ground rules for the implementation of a ceasefire agreement signed in Kuala Lumpur last year.

The ceasefire rules were a prerequisite for the resumption of the formal peace talks being mediated by Malaysia.

MILF chair Murad Ebrahim said the rules should be put in place to ensure the success of the truce.

He said this would be the last step toward the resumption of the formal peace talks.

"We have been waiting for this for so long. Now that it is within reach, let us all make this happen," he told the INQUIRER.

Jesus Dureza, President Macapagal-Arroyo's assistant for Mindanao and former chief government negotiator with the MILF, said the operation in Lanao del Norte had her approval.

Dureza said that he and Kyamko had spoken with Ms Macapagal via satellite phone and that she was firm about continuing the offensive.

Kyamko said Ms Macapagal told him to go on with the operation "without let-up."

"Her directive is actually to get [Al-Ghozi] asap (as soon as possible)," he said.

Dureza said violence could be averted if the MILF leadership stepped in and surrendered Al-Ghozi peacefully.

But MILF spokesperson Eid Kabalu said that if Al-Ghozi were indeed in their hands, they would have turned him over already. *Reports from Hernan P. dela Cruz, Julie S. Alipala, Allan A. Nawal, Edwin O. Fernandez, Charlie C. Senase and Grace C. Albasin, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Procurement of military supplies now DBM's job

From page A1

tled junior officers who mutinied on July 27.

"One of the complaints is corruption in the AFP. Now, we admit that there is corruption in the AFP. In fact, we admit that there is corruption in the government. This is no secret. We have been struggling with this problem since government was invented," Saludo added.

Saludo also said that military officials have in fact already been sacked and charged because of their involvement in anomalies.

He said he hoped that the Feliciano Commission, which has been tasked with tracing the roots of the mutiny, could recommend "implementable proposals" to help eradicate corruption in the military service.

Saludo said the government has also addressed the mutineers' other concerns, even before July 27.

He noted that Republic Act No. 9166, which increased the salaries of soldiers so that they would be at par with those of policemen and teachers, was passed more than two years ago.

"This passed in 2001. The person who initiated this law was Secretary Reyes—the person these guys want to remove," Saludo said.

Salary increase

He explained that 20 percent of the planned increase was implemented last year, 30 percent would be implemented this year, and the remaining 50 percent in January next year.

Saludo said that the government was also planning to provide public lands for the housing of 75,000 AFP members and their families.

He added that soldiers also get free medical attention from government hospitals.

"So, we don't really know where these guys (the mutineers) are coming from. The only thing we can think of is they (will) grab at any issue they can grab just to have an excuse for this mutiny," Saludo said.

Economic prospects

He also noted that, while the economy could expect "turbulence" in the near term because of the mutiny, its long-term prospects were "very good."

He said inflation was at 3.3 percent, while unemployment was down to 12.2 percent this April from 13.6 percent a year ago.

"Foreign investments are up 20 percent in the first quarter. I'm sure that the increase might slow down a bit in this quarter but still (it's) 26 percent over a year ago. With all the bad news we had to contend with, this is not bad at all," Saludo said.

He added that the budget deficit was also 22 percent below target in the first half of the year.

"There was a target ceiling. We're 22 percent below that and we intend to maintain this thanks to improving collections in the revenue agencies as well as discipline on the spending side," he said.

"I think we're actually doing not so bad. So please broadcast (this) to your colleagues in the business community here and abroad who are spooked by this mutiny and are unable to see these good numbers about what's happening here," Saludo said.

If they took out ...

From page A1

porters to Room 1805 at Oakwood, which they claimed was the mutineers' operation center. There, they showed reporters P1.6-M worth of communications gear.

'Planted'

The INQUIRER informant said it could only have been "planted" to support the government contention that the mutiny was part of a "grand conspiracy."

In an interview Sunday, resigned intelligence chief Brig. Gen. Victor Corpus claimed that they got hold of "documentary evidence" after the rebel troops vacated Oakwood.

Among the documents, one was allegedly contained over 200 names of the participants in the short-lived rebellion, including two colonels and one lieutenant colonel who are still in the active service.

Another source said the document was a printout of the contents of a bent diskette left behind by the rebel soldiers at the Oakwood.

"Malabo (hazy)," the intelligence informant told the INQUIRER of the diskette that was left behind.

"Why would they leave incriminating evidence behind? They did not leave Oakwood in a hurry. They had all the time to pack their supplies," he added.

Reyes' speechwriter in list

Corpus admitted that he and other officers were shocked when they saw that among those in the list was the speechwriter of Defense Secretary Reyes.

The officer was identified as Capt. Eugene Gonzales, a 1995 graduate of the Philippine Military Academy.

When asked why they would bring the diskettes to the hotel, a source in Camp Aguinaldo said: "They thought they would win."

"Some of them are leaders of their units," Corpus said, but declined to identify the officers, their ranks and positions pending the gathering of other pieces of evidence to establish their participation in the failed power grab.

Master list

Based on the diskette printout, Lt. Gen. Rodolfo Garcia, AFP vice chief of staff, yesterday said that the military now has a "master list" of officers and enlisted personnel who committed to take part in the mutiny, but changed their minds at the last minute.

"We have endeavored to find out about these officers. Our initial findings are that these officers did not move from their units. They had stayed put in their respective units in the field and continued to do their jobs of patrolling..." Garcia said at a press briefing in the afternoon.

When asked if those in the list were either senior or junior officers, Garcia said: "They are middle-rank officers; captains and juniors, junior officers, lieutenants." He added that they come from several units in the military.

Those in the list would be summoned to an informal investigation and asked whether they had any participation in the mutiny.

"They will be, of course, asked questions about their being part of the list; they have not committed any overt act. They have stayed put in their units and did not go to Oakwood."

Garcia said that "better sense" could have dissuaded these officers and personnel from joining the mutiny, noting that some of them "were on their way to link up, but circumstances had prevented them from linking up" with the mutineers.

Garcia said that some of the officers in the list could be the same officers who were earlier reported missing, but who were later accounted for.

Damage control

"No matter what these generals are saying now, the Armed Forces is conducting damage control. The fact is: we were caught flatfooted," the intelligence officer told the INQUIRER.

Part of the damage control operation is that the Armed Forces has begun "interviewing" its personnel, often asking them to recite the military code of ethics and other pledges in an apparent test of their loyalty.

Original plot

According to Corpus, the mutineers had originally plotted to seize power from the Macapagal administration on Aug. 2, but were forced to stage the mutiny on July 27 after President Macapagal-Arroyo ordered their arrest hours earlier, military officials said.

"This would have been more bloody," Corpus said, pointing out that the mutiny leaders expected at least 2,000 soldiers from several units around the country to be mobilized for the coup attempt.

According to the plot, 17 task forces would take over Malacañang, Camp Aguinaldo, Camp Crame, Sangley naval station in Cavite, the Ninoy Aquino International Airport and airports in General Santos City and Mactan, Cebu.

The plan also included the takeover of the TV network GMA-7 and local radio network, dzRH, where the mutineers planned to broadcast their programs.

PMA moves to evict overstaying generals, other officers

By Vincent Cabreza
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

CAMP ALLEN, Baguio City—The Magdalo mutiny's initial fallout will rain down on the heads of three overstaying generals and 17 junior military and police officers who have been housed illegally in three military bases in this city.

Taking their cue from the mutineers' gripes about corruption in the Armed Forces, Philippine Military Academy officials have started a crackdown on overstaying military officials in Camp Allen, Fort del Pilar and Navy Base.

At the top of their list, said Army Lt. Col. Ramon Florece, are two active generals, including a "mistah" (classmate) of Maj. Gen. Edilberto Adan, PMA superintendent.

Florece, a PMA official, had questioned the elite military school's housing policy weeks before the Magdalo group staged a mutiny in Makati City on July 27.

He, together with Army Col. Ernesto Cimatu, the PMA chaplain, and three members of PMA Marilag Class of 1995, sent Adan a petition last month seeking better housing accommodations for 500 PMA personnel, most of whom were paying monthly rent of between P6,000 and P8,000 a month.

"Each military officer or enlisted man is entitled to a quarters allowance but few of our personnel are able to enjoy that because the facilities entitled to us have been occupied by other officials," Florece said.

The quarters allowance is automatically deducted from a soldier's salary when he avails himself of AFP-subsidized facilities.

"A lieutenant colonel is entitled to P800 quarters allowance each month while a private avails (himself) of some P400 in monthly allowances," Florece said.

"With a colonel's salary of P17,000, renting a house for P8,000 makes a big dent on our take-home pay compared to the remittance by the government of only P800 for an AFP facility."

The ejection of some 20 officers from these reservations was the first step at addressing the housing problem. Many of these overstaying officials remain housed in 50-year-old bungalows.

Many of these officials have since been reassigned or have retired. Among them was Brig. Gen. Marcelo Navarro Jr., a member of PMA Masigasig Class of 1972, who was recently denied an extended stay by Adan.

Yesterday, Florece said, he led a team "to help move the belongings of at least seven families now living in three military quarters that were assigned to reassigned officers."

Race ends at the rear of a truck

By Leila B. Salaverria

A 27-YEAR-OLD businessman was killed while his companion was injured after the Pajero they were in slammed into the rear of a trailer truck in Manila before dawn yesterday.

Quoting witnesses, SP02 Rodrigo Tibio said the red Pajero (USA-111) driven by Vernon Tan, of Lamar Village, Quezon City, had just beat a red light at the corner of Taft and UN Avenues before it hit the truck driven by Arthur Dahay at 12:45 a.m.

Tan, a businessman, died at the Manila Medical Center where he was rushed for treatment.

His companion, 30-year-old Arnold Santos, of Bulacan, was reported to be already out of danger at the same hospital.

Tibio said witnesses saw Tan's vehicle apparently racing with a black Pajero as it crossed Taft along UN Avenue from the direction of the Luneta.

Tan's Pajero then tail-ended the truck of Dahay at the corner of San Marcelino Street.

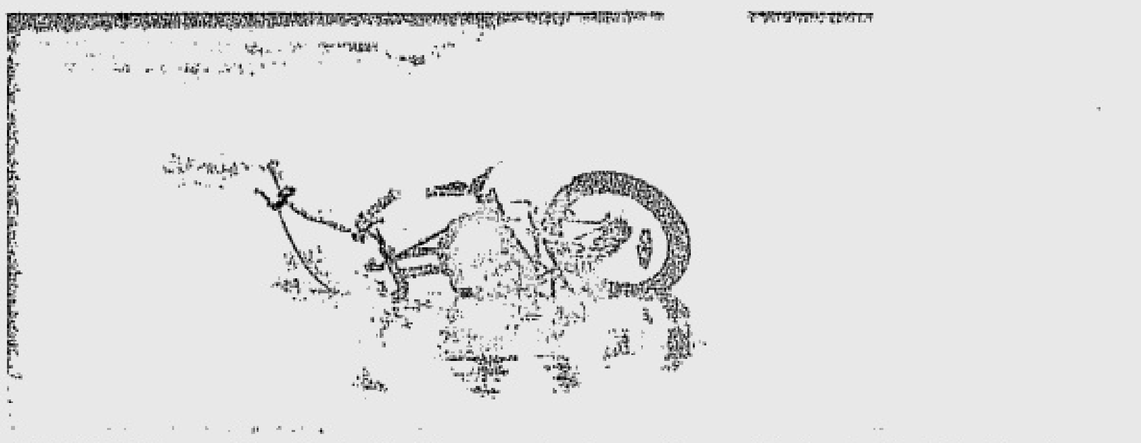
The impact totaled the sports utility vehicle. Bystanders rushed the victims to the Manila Doctors Hospital.

Dahay escaped any injuries while his truck was slightly damaged.

The police said the black Pajero that Tan was allegedly racing with sped off immediately after the incident. However, bystanders later saw a black Pajero arrive at the hospital and its occupants talk to the victims' families.

'Let GMA streamers fly'

Atienza: They are not ours, but let them be



A BICYCLE takes a ride on the back of its owner who chooses to cross the flooded Marikina River in Tumana District yesterday. JOAN BONDOC

By Tarra Quismundo

LET THEM hang.

Manila Mayor Lito Atienza yesterday said the streamers that urged President Macapagal-Arroyo to run in the 2004 polls but had been displayed illegally on city streets should be left alone.

"A few days of exposure (to the elements) and they will be gone. They're not made of strong material," Atienza said.

The streamers, made of thin white cloth painted with messages for the President, have proliferated in Manila since last week.

Atienza gave his virtual permission for the streamers as the Pambansang Lakas ng Kilusang Mamamalakaya ng Pilipinas national chair Fernando Hicap sought an investigation.

"We urge Mayor Atienza to call an independent inquiry over this propaganda in Manila," Hicap said.

But Atienza said the streamer campaign, which was probably began by community groups and barangays expressing themselves, would soon die down.

"I wouldn't encourage it, but I would not also squelch it," Atienza said.

Manila's Business Promotion and Development Office Special Permits section has not issued permits for the streamers.

Section 769 of the Revised Ordinances of the City of Manila states that such streamers are not allowed without proper permits, particularly in public installations such as lamp posts and street signs.

Bungling crooks

By Luige del Puerto

IT WAS a well-planned robbery but there was only one hitch—there was no money to steal.

According to the police, five men armed with .45-caliber pistols took a black bag from Sulpicio Abucejo, Chinabank security guard, as the latter escorted bank teller Roda Puson at about 9 a.m. at the Megamall in Mandaluyong City.

Abucejo and Puson were then making the rounds of the Chinabank ATMs at the Megamall checking at the transaction records. They were not carrying any money.

The suspects struck as they were checking the ATM along the covered walk of the Megamall Building B.

After taking the black bag that contained a logbook and receipts and Abucejo's 38-caliber revolver, the suspects walked casually toward Edsa.

Rains flood Metro

By Luige del Puerto and Margaux Ortiz

TRAFFIC almost came to a halt along major roads in Metro Manila as monsoon rains flooded much of the metropolis yesterday.

Traffic was heavy on Edsa, particularly between Ortigas and Boni Avenues where flood reportedly reached half a foot deep in some areas at 11 a.m.

Floods also made the Mandaluyong City Hall complex look like Noah's Ark as almost the entire Maysilo Rotonda went underwater.

In Marikina, the Tumana Bridge, an important alternate route that connects the city to Quezon City, also went underwater.

Rescue 161 said the bridge had been inaccessible since Wednesday night.

The Metropolitan Manila Development Authority said that what the metropolis experienced was mere "pocket flooding."

MMDA deputy chair Cesar Lacuna said these floods usually subside after a few minutes.

He blamed the indiscriminate throwing of garbage into waterways and streets for the floods.

The MMDA deputy chair said they were concerned with the flooding in Dimasalang, Manila.

He said the squatters' homes block the South and North Antipolo drainage mains and the Cabulusan creek.

METROBRIEFS

US fugitive nabbed

NATIONAL Bureau of Investigation agents have arrested an American fugitive in San Juan. Luis Bondoc Secades, 60, who has a standing warrant of arrest in the United States for a drug case, was arrested last week over a tax case that was filed in Pasig City in 1986, the NBI said. Diaz said Secades had been working as a dealer in a Nevada casino, when he was charged and convicted in 1992 for distributing methapethamine. Secades managed to flee to the Philippines before US authorities could arrest him.
Leila Salaverria

Minors rescued

ALL THEY wanted was to find a job, earn a living, and help their family. But what two girls from Northern Samar got in return was a nightmare. When the girls left the province for Caloocan City, they wound up in a prostitution den. The girls escaped on June 4, before they could be sold to the den's customers—most of whom were foreigners. On Wednesday, police raided the sex lair on 3rd Avenue, Caloocan and rescued 11 other girls—9 of whom were suspected to be under 18 years old. But the prostitution den's owner, maintainer and recruiter managed to escape. Police are now looking for Rogelio Arraz, 57, Jelpa Nablo, 29, and a certain Nena, said to be the owner. On the day of the raid, police arrested the den's pimp, Tony Milka, 42, after he showed two policemen posing as customers around the prostitution den. *Edson Tandoc Jr.*

Money seminar

HOW TO make money in times of uncertainty is the focus of a seminar to be held at the Makati Shangri-La on Aug. 12 from 2 p.m. to 6 p.m. The seminar will introduce mutual funds as an attractive investment vehicle. Interested parties may call Jerome Gonzales at 634-5038.

Degree conferred

DR. RAMON T. Batungbacal, Harvard-educated and Boston-trained eye surgeon, was conferred the title of professor emeritus by the University of the East College of Medicine in recognition of his contribution to the field of Ophthalmology.

Handcuffed to bed?...

From page A18

caped.

A case of evasion through negligence was filed on Aug. 6 before the Quezon City Prosecutor's Office against PO2 Arnold Lao and PO2 Ronaldo Toledo, both with the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency office in Camp Crame.

In the complaint, PDEA officials said the two lawmen were supposed to be guarding Lubarbio, who was allegedly caught with 3,039.6 grams of shabu during a drug operation in Cavite.

Lao told the police that at about 4 a.m. on July 27, he left the PDEA office to urinate outside. But when he got back, the suspect was gone—and so was the bed.

Toledo was said to be asleep at the time, the complaint said.

Carriedo to Recto closed for good

A STRETCH of Rizal Avenue between Carriedo Street and C.M. Rector Avenue has been permanently closed to traffic as the "pedestrianization" of the area entered a new phase.

"It is going to be permanent," said Manila Mayor Lito Atienza. "That's what this re-strategy is all about, withdrawing the vehicular use, to 'pedestrianize' it."

The northbound lane of that stretch of Rizal Avenue has been closed to vehicular traffic since the project started in June. Northbound vehicles are currently using the southbound lane..

"Only the Soler and Raon streets will be allowed to cross Rizal Avenue," Atienza said.

Cars, jeeps and other vehicles have been taken off that section from Carriedo to C.M. Recto so that the area could be turned into a shopping haven similar to what it was before the Light Rail Transit turned the place "dark and gloomy."

"It's pedestrian friendly and consumer friendly," said Atienza, who had said earlier that the project will be done before Christmas. *Tarra Quismundo*

Al-Ghozi pal's death suspicious

ON TARGET

Ramon Tulfo

THE DEATH of Abdulmukim Ong Edris, an Abu Sayyaf member who escaped from a Camp Crame jail recently, at the hands of his Army captors invites suspicion.

Edris bolted jail with Indonesian terrorist Fathur Rohman al-Ghozi. The Abu Sayyaf bandit had a P2-million price on his head.

Why was Edris killed before he could tell investigators who was behind the much-publicized jailbreak?

* * *

The story given by the military that he and a companion, Mahmud Ismael, tried to wrest the firearms from their captors is not credible.

Edris and Ismael were allegedly intercepted at an Army checkpoint in Lanao del Norte.

Why were Edris and Ismael not tied up with a rope—even if their captors had claimed they didn't have handcuffs—while they were being taken to a camp?

* * *

The Army captors knew Edris was a dangerous person.

It was highly unlikely the hands of Edris and Ismael were free, given Edris' reputation as an escape "artist."

The answer to why Edris was killed is obvious: Dead men tell no tale.

* * *

C'mon, guys! Please don't give the citizenry that b*s**t about how Edris met his end. The public has grown tired of Kuratong Baleleng-type executions.**

In the "Kuratong" case, the policemen wasted 11 bank robbery suspects because they confiscated $2 million from the suspects and wanted the money for themselves.

In Edris' case, he could have revealed who masterminded his and Al-Ghozi's escape.

* * *

Those cops who arrested two Chinese nationals on drug trafficking charges should invent a more credible story on how the two were taken into custody.

The cops are from the Special Project Unit of the Central Police District (CPD) based in Camp Karingal. The unit is headed by Supt. Richard Albano. This is the same Albano whose men allegedly "planted" drugs on young Tsinoys last year.

Cai Shi Ying and Yeung Hiu Tung, the policemen claimed, were arrested in a buy-bust operation in front of a drugstore on Quezon Avenue, Quezon City, last week.

* * *

The policemen said they posed as buyers of methamphetamine hydrochloride (shabu).

The two were about to hand over 100 grams of shabu to the poseurs when they were arrested. The cops presented P200,000 allegedly used in the buy-bust.

That's the cop's story.

* * *

Now, let's hear the story of the suspects.

Cai and Yeung said they were stopped at a mobile checkpoint on Aurora Boulevard near Broadway Street.

They said they were on their way to Yeung's sister who rents a house in Broadway. They came from Quiapo, Manila, where they sell video compact discs (VCDs).

* * *

The two don't speak or understand English or Tagalog. I learned about their story from their lawyer, Augusto Macam.

If they can't speak English or Tagalog, how could they have negotiated the sale of shabu with their captors? Did they use sign language?

I tend to believe their story that they are frame-up victims.

* * *

When the cops who intercepted them on Aurora Boulevard learned they couldn't speak or understand English or Tagalog, they probably saw an opportunity to make big money.

That's why Yeung and Cai were not allowed to call their friends or relatives by their captors. It took the police 30 hours to file charges against them.

Yeung's sister called up a friend when her brother did not arrive at her place. The friend, who has connections with the police, called up police stations. That's how Yeung and Cai's arrest came to the surface.

Yeung and Cai's captors should be investigated.

* * *

Manuel Q. Domingo, 32, allegedly shot Pablito Marco, 53, reportedly over a woman. The woman chose the victim over Domingo.

Domingo allegedly shot Marco inside the Good Samaritan Hospital in Cabanatuan City while the victim was visiting his girlfriend's sister who was confined there.

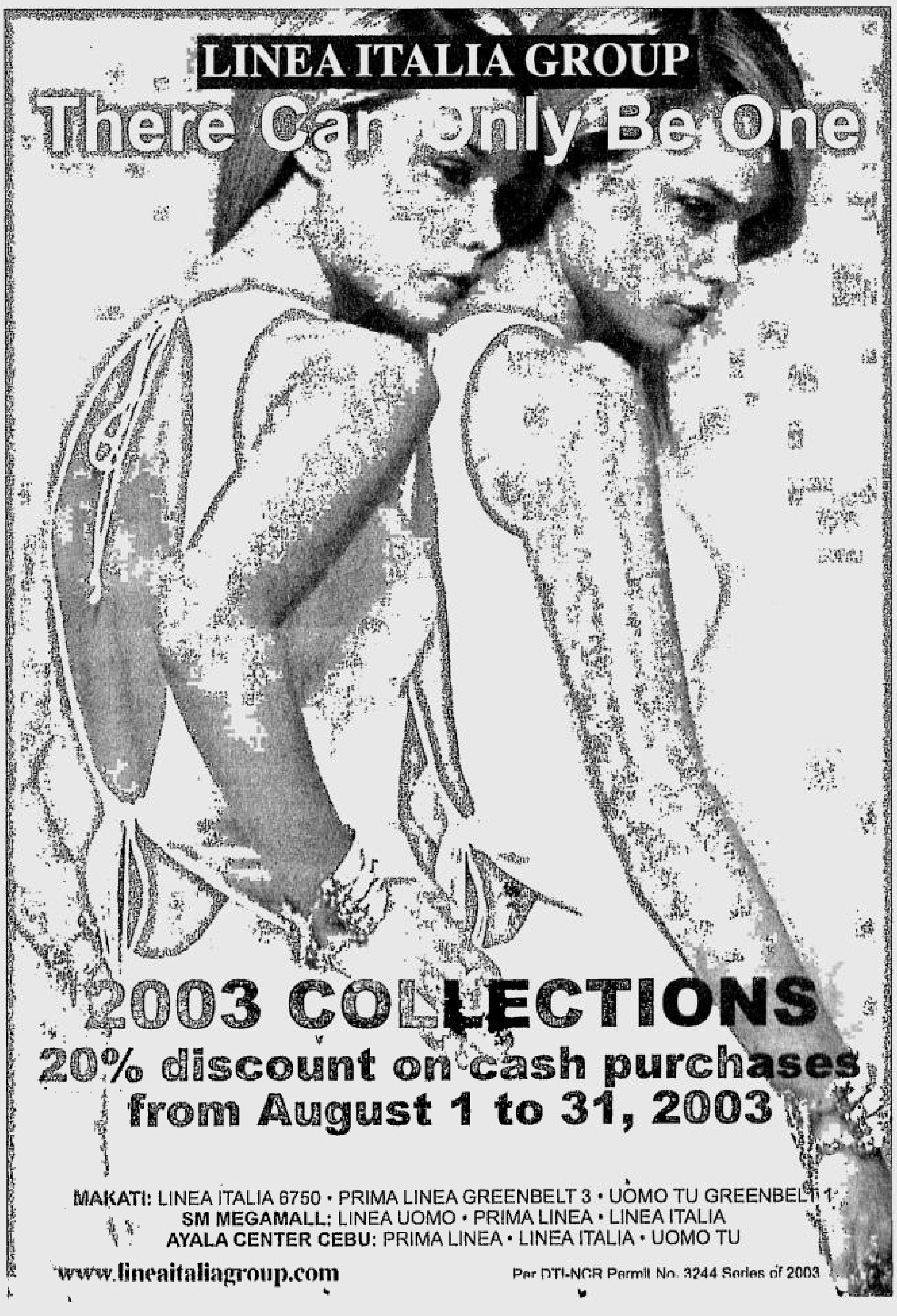
Here's what makes the story interesting: Domingo used a gun, a 9-mm Beretta, pawned to him by a cop.

* * *

Marco's relatives fear the murder case might be downgraded to homicide.

Why? Because Domingo belongs to a rich family in Cabanatuan.

Moreover, Domingo's lawyer reportedly is the son of a retired judge who might have some influence on the prosecutor and judge handling the murder case



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Editor **Abelardo S. Ulanday**

Handcuffed to bed? Take it with you

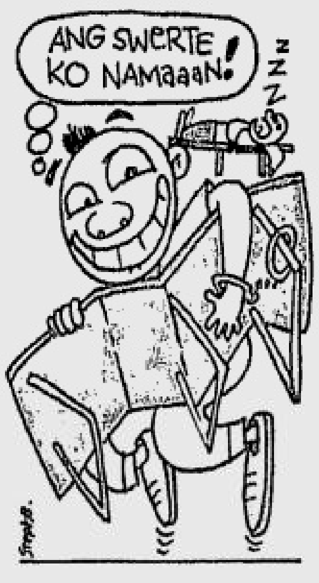
By Edson Tandoc Jr.

THEY lost a drug suspect and a folding bed.

Two policemen are now in hot water for the escape of suspected drug pusher Ernesto Lubarbio.

Lubarbio was handcuffed to a folding bed, which he took along with him when he es-

HANDCUFFED/ A17



BF blinks in Baclaran standoff

Vendors score with Marquez threat to nab armed MMDA men

By Margaux Ortiz

WE DON'T deserve this.

Metropolitan Manila Development Authority Chair Bayani Fernando yesterday said that Parañaque City Mayor Joey Marquez did not have to order the arrest of MMDA men involved in Baclaran road-clearing operations.

"That would be unfair for our people who are just doing their jobs," Fernando said. "My men are now hesitant (to do their jobs) for fear of being arrested."

Fernando added that the vendors who learned of Marquez's order would become more willful and stubborn.

Worrying for his men, Fernando is now considering handing over the road-clearing job in Baclaran to the Parañaque City government.

"(Vendors) would surely become more violent in dealing with MMDA men now that they know the city government is on their side," Fernando said.

He said that the road-clearing in Baclaran is not worth the safety of his men.

"We don't deserve being pushed around like this because dealing with violent and headstrong vendors is very grueling," the MMDA chair said.

Marquez told the INQUIRER in a phone interview that he was more than glad to take over the clearing operations in Baclaran should the MMDA give it up.

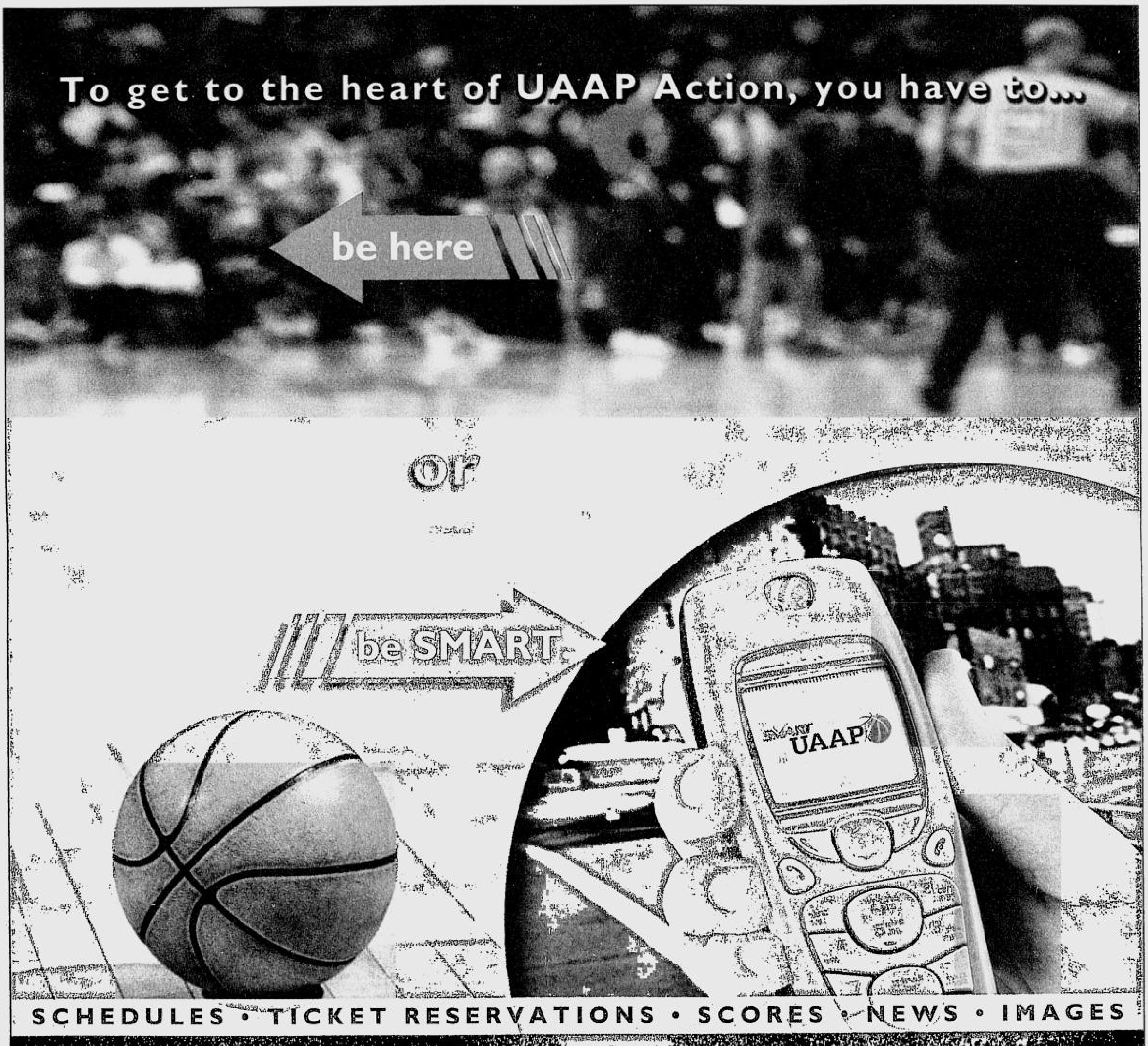
Marquez also confirmed the news that he has ordered his law enforcers to arrest MMDA personnel carrying guns and clubs.

"They are also people who deserve to be treated humanely, even if they are illegal vendors," Marquez said.

He said the MMDA men should also issue receipts to vendors whenever they seize the latter's goods.

On July 4, a bystander was killed by a stray bullet during a clash between an MMDA clearing team and sidewalk vendors.

Poon Baceron is the second man to die from the continuing clashes in Baclaran.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NOT IMMIGRATION

DOJ has say on five 'Fil-shams'

By Martin P. Marfil

THE FIVE Fil-foreign players suspected of having faked their Filipino citizenship to be able to play in the Philippine Basketball Association cannot be deported unless their documents are revoked by the courts and the Department of Justice, the Bureau of Immigration said yesterday.

Immigration commissioner Andrea Domingo said the BI can no longer exercise jurisdiction over Pauliasi "Asi" Taulava, Jonathan Ordonio, Andy Seigle, Davonn Harp and Rudy Hatfield as they have already acquired Philippine citizenship when the DOJ affirmed their recognition as Filipinos.

"Until such time that their citizenship is questioned and subsequently revoked, we cannot institute summary deportation proceedings against them," Domingo said in a statement.

The BI, she emphasized, has no authority to withdraw the conferment of Philippine citizenship or hear and decide on citizenship cases.

Meanwhile, the Games and Amusements Board announced it would conduct a separate investigation before deciding whether to revoke the players' license to play.

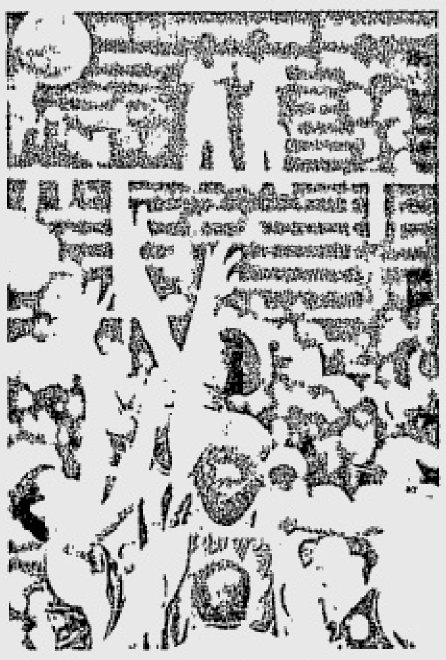
"But we have to wait for the final recommendation of the Senate," GAB chair Eduardo Villanueva told the INQUIRER.

The Senate committees on Games, Amusements and Sports and Constitutional Amendments had declared Thursday that the Filipino ancestry of the five players cannot be established and recommended their summary deportation.

The recommendation will be put to a vote during a plenary session on Monday

DOJ HAS/ A22

WHAT'S INSIDE



■ Altas rip Bombers; Dolphins win anew /A20

■ Yugoslav star to play for Pistons /A22

■ Favorites dodge upset ax /A24

■ Paragua, Sanchez stay in pursuit of chess title /A25

SPORTS TV

Compiled by L. Mangulat

TENNIS: Montreal Masters; 7:30 a.m. (r-6:30 p.m.) and tomorrow at 1 a.m : Star Sports—Witness quarterfinal and semifinal action unfold in Canada

GOLF: The International; 12:30 p.m. (r) and tomorrow at 3 a.m.; Star Sports—PGA golf continues with the second and third round of this all-important tournament.

BASEBALL: Reds vs Dodgers; 7 a.m. (r); Phillies vs Giants; 10 a.m. (r-3:30 p.m. and 9:30 p.m.); Mariners vs Yankees; tomorrow at 1 a.m.; ESPN—Take a look back at the replay of the NL match-up between Cincinnati and Los Angeles and catch the live coverage of the games featuring Philadelphia against San Francisco and Seattle versus New York.

Schedules subject to change without prior notice.

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Never Had A Dream Come True	S Club 7	MTONE NEVERHAD
Nice And Slow	Usher	MTONE NICENSLOW
Other Side	Red Hot Chili Peppers	MTONE ODERSYD
Family Portrait	Pink	MTONE PORTRAIT
Say My Name	Destiny's Child	MTONE SAYMYNAME
Something Beautiful	Robbie Williams	MTONE SOMETHINGB
Always Something There 1	Naked Eyes	MTONE SUMTINDER1
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There You Go	Pink	MTONE THEREYOU
You Got It Bad	Usher	MTONE UGOTIT
It Wasn't Me	Shaggy	MTONE WASNTME
Asereje	Las Ketchup	MTONE ASERIJE
Matrix	Movie Theme	MTONE MATRIX
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SMART Simply Amazing!

Eagles, Archers renew rivalry

By Dennis U. Eroa

FAR Eastern University seeks to end the first round on top but focus will naturally be on defending champion Ateneo and La Salle when they renew their storied rivalry today in the UAAP men's basketball championship at the Araneta Coliseum.

STANDINGS	W	L
FEU	5	1
La Salle	4	1
Ateneo	4	2
UE	3	2
Adamson	2	3
UST	2	4
UP	1	4
NU	1	5

GAMES TODAY
(Araneta Coliseum)
2 p.m.—FEU vs UP (srs)
4 p.m.—La Salle vs Ateneo (srs)
6 p.m.—La Salle vs Ateneo (jrs)

The Tamaraws (5-1) are favored to prevail over the University of the Philippines Maroons (1-4) in the 2 p.m. curtain-raiser, but odds are just about even when the Archers and the Eagles collide at 4 p.m. before an expected full house.

"I'm always excited to play against La Salle," said Ateneo mentor Joel Banal, who steered the Eagles to victory over the Archers in last year's titanic best-of-three title series.

Ateneo, riding high on a four-game winning streak after a 0-2 start, will test a rookie-laden but talented and spirited La Salle quintet hoping to reclaim the crown it owned for four straight years from 1998 to 2001.

The feeling, according to battle-grizzled mentor Franz Pumaren, is mutual.

"A La Salle-Ateneo game is full of drama and excitement. You can say that the team looks forward to playing the Eagles," Pumaren said.

La Salle, holding second with a 4-1 card, and Ateneo split their first two matches last season with the Archers finishing with an impressive 13-1 record at the end of the eliminations. But the Eagles won the title by taking the first and third games of the playoffs.

The main men of last year's mother of all battles—Ateneo's Enrico Villanueva and La Salle's Mike Cortez—are no longer around but this match isn't lacking in future superstars.

Two-time MVP Rich Alvarez remains the heart and soul of Ateneo's back-breaking game, and is expected to stretch La Salle's frontline to the limit with his monstrous rebounding.

With slotman Carlo Sharma a doubtful starter after suffering from back spasms, Pumaren will have to extract the best from rookie-workhorse Jerwin Gaco, the youthful Mark Benitez, a 6-foot-5 recruit from Jose Rizal College, and veteran Manny Ramos to battle Alvarez, Ford Arao, JC Intal and Doug Kramer in the shaded area.

Pumaren refused to say whether point guard Mac Cardona will finally be fielded after being benched for disciplinary reasons during La Salle's 92-85 overtime win over National U on Aug. 2.

Banal, however, is ready with reliables Larry Fonacier, Wesley Gonzales or even rookies Intal and Kramer in case the King Archer gets to suit up.

Another interesting matchup features two bundles of talents in the backcourt—Ateneo's LA Tenorio and the vastly improved Tyrone Tang, whose nifty passes and unselfish plays have tremendously boosted the cause of the Archers.

Tenorio has no qualms taking the crucial shots. He has an able backup in rookie Chris Tiu, who like Tang and teammate Joseph Yeo are products of the noted Xavier High junior basketball program.

Altas rip Bombers; Dolphins win anew

GAMES WEDNESDAY (Makati Coliseum)
9:30 a.m.—Mapua vs Letran (jrs)
11 a.m.—SSC-R vs SBC (jrs)
2 p.m.—Mapua vs Letran (srs)
4 p.m.—SSC-R vs SBC (srs)

By June Navarro

VLADIMIR Joe presided over a fourth-quarter binge as the Perpetual Help-Rizal Altas ended their six-game slump by downing the Jose Rizal Bombers, 78-70, yesterday in the NCAA basketball tournament at the Rizal Memorial Coliseum.

Joe, a 6-foot-4 son of a US serviceman, unloaded nine of his game-high 23 points in the payoff period as the Altas cut loose from a tight contest and went on to register only their third win in nine outings.

The Angeles City native had five points in a 9-0 Perpetual run from 60-all and the Altas held their ground from there to send the Bombers to their second straight defeat for a 5-4 win-loss record.

College of St. Benilde, which downed JRU to break into the winner's circle in its last outing, picked up a second victory by blasting Philippine Christian, 80-62.

However, the Blazers stayed in the cellar at 2-7 with PCU dropping into a tie with the Altas at 3-6.

Gerald Botin's 20-footer gave the Altas a 62-60 lead and Joe came up with a jumper and a three-point play off Medonald Santos for 67-60 with barely five minutes remaining.

Dom Javier then made a crucial swipe and completed a fastbreak play that widened the gap, 69-60.

Robert Barnson, UPHR's erstwhile tower of strength, is out with an injured left knee which doctors said would require an MCL operation. Khiel Misa and Rommel Balboa are recuperating from foot injuries while James Quiazon is trying to recover from the flu.

Javier backed up Joe with 22 points and Barnson added 14.

The UPHR Altalettes also barged into the win column after losing their first eight games with an 81-74 victory over the JRU Light Bombers in the curtain-raiser.

Scores:

Second Game (srs)

UPHR 78—Joe 23, Javier 22, Barnson 14, Botin 10, Misa 6, Quiazon 3, Santos 0, Mendoza 0, Cuenco 0, Aseron 0, Burgos 0, Balboa 0.

JRU 70—Te 21, Santos 16, Fajardo 12, Atunaga 10, Lindaya 4, Domangcas 2, Serios 2, De Vera 2, Jorge 1, Borboran 0.

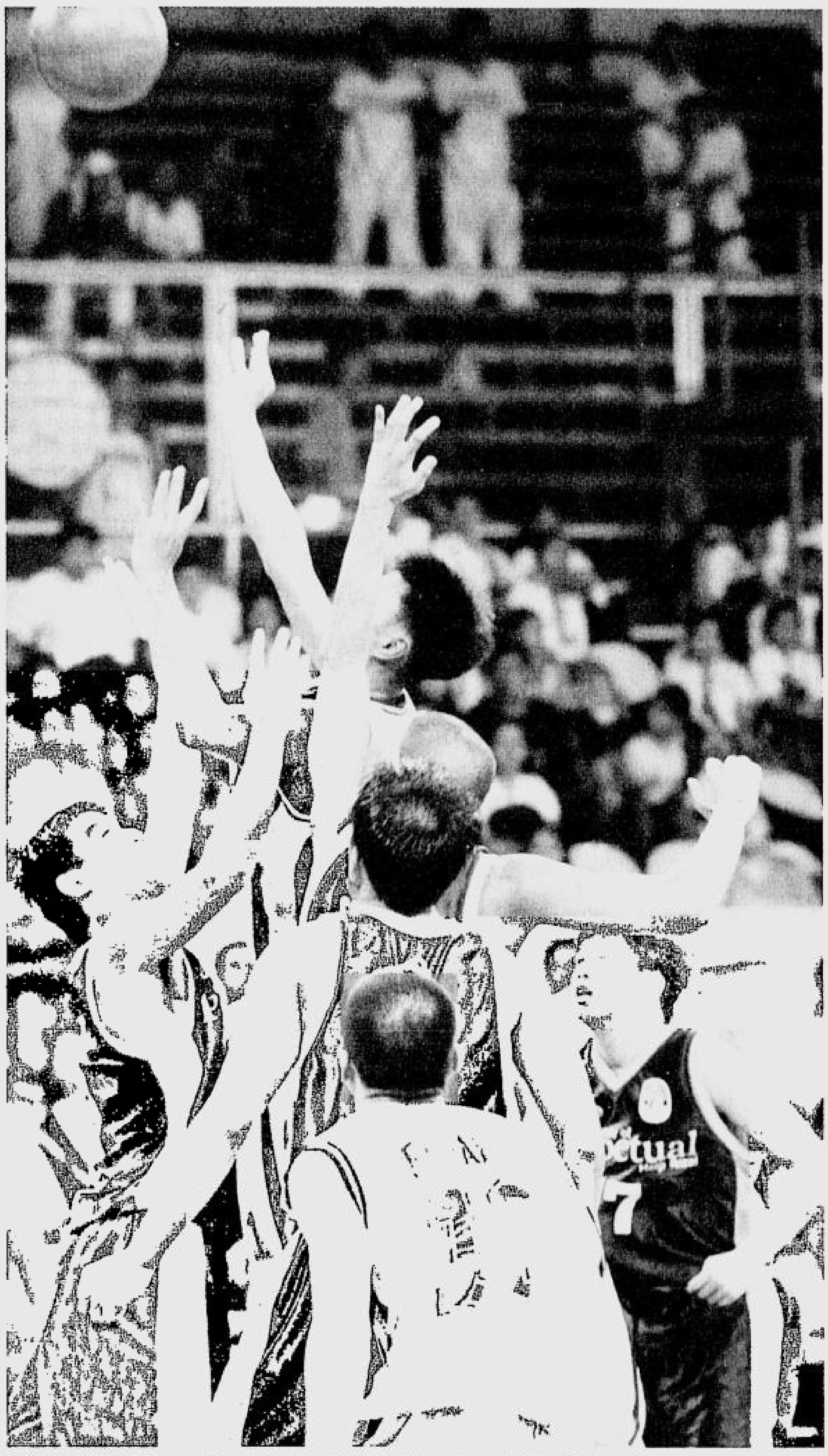
Quarters: 21-15, 37-34, 53-54, 78-70.

Third Game (srs)

CSB 80 —Magpayo 24, Capati 19, Sanidad 9, Abad 7, Good 7, U. Reyes 6, Orbeta 4, Robles 3, Turbella 1, Rivera 0, Ang 0, Quizon 0.

PCU 62 —Cecilio 16, Retaga 14, Garido 8, Castro 8, Guiyab 6, Acraman 4, Roque 3, Belga 2, Sanz 1, Salangsang 0, Benitez 0, Semining 0.

Quarters: 20-5, 40-20, 58-37, 80-62



BIG men of the Altas and Heavy Bombers battle for the rebound in this bit of action. ERNIE U. SARMIENTO

Reigning champions test Letran spikers

GAMES TODAY
8:30 a.m.—JRU vs CSB (Jrs, Men)
1 p.m.—CSJL vs SSC-R (Jrs, Women, men)
GAMES TOMORROW
8:30 a.m.—SBC vs UPHR (Jrs, Men)

THE OLD and the new leaders meet for the first time this season when NCAA volleyball resumes at 8:30 a.m. this weekend at the PCU gym on Taft Avenue, Manila.

STANDINGS	W	L
Juniors		
CSJL	2	0
SSC-R	1	0
SBC	1	1
UPHR	1	1
PCU	0	1
CSB	0	1
JRU	0	1
Women		
PCU	1	0
CSB	1	0
CSJL	1	0
SSC-R	0	1
UPHR	0	2
Men		
CSJL	2	0
SSC-R	1	0
CSB	1	0
SBC	1	1
PCU	0	1
JRU	0	1
UPHR	0	2

Letran aims to keep its spotless records in the juniors, men's and women's divisions against the defending champions of all three brackets from San Sebastian after the noon break.

The junior teams of Jose Rizal and College of St. Benilde collide in the opener for the right to enter the win column, to be followed by the match between their senior counterparts.

San Beda and Perpetual Help tangle in a juniors game at 8:30 a.m. with their seniors teams clashing in the second match.

Letran defeated Perpetual in three matches two Saturdays ago and clobbered San Beda last July 19, with the juniors winning in straight sets while the seniors logging a come-from-behind victory after giving up the first set.

Competition in the women's division follows the traditional double-round pennant system, where the leader after the first round meets the leader of the second round in a five-set final. With only five teams fielded this year, each team will have only four matches per round.

The juniors and men's division teams are hard-pressed to come up with better records since only the top four teams at the end of the first round will qualify for the second round.

JUN REYES AND MIKE CORTEZ

Alaska Aces' Ateneo-La Salle connection

By Mico Halili
Contributor

ASSISTANT coach Jun Reyes watches Mike Cortez carefully. Cortez, gliding with the basketball, crosses the half-court line, avoids two defenders near the free throw line, stops and elevates to shoot a fall-away jumper during practice. Swish.

Reyes, tasked to guide Alaska's top rookie, nods in approval from the bench. The teacher is a former King Eagle while the student is a former King Archer.

"For so many years you're cheering against this player then, all of a sudden, you're teammates in the PBA," says Reyes, who played for the Ateneo from grade school to college before turning pro in 1990. "It's kind of weird at the start but you get over it eventually."

So far, mentor and student seem to get along quite well.

"Coach Jun teaches me dirty tricks. You know back in the old days, he used to play *magulang*-style," says a grinning Cortez, 22, about his Atenean mentor who turned 36 last June. "Seriously, he teaches me the triangle (offense). I just came in this year and I had to learn the triangle quick. So he's taught me the basic options and the little niches inside the triangle offense, how to get free, how to find guys who are free."

ASSISTANT coach Jun Reyes (left) teaches Mike Cortez strategies, including some "dirty tricks." MICO HALILI

The lessons are definitely paying off. In his first conference in the PBA, Cortez nearly led Alaska to the All-Filipino Finals by making over 16 points, 6 rebounds and over 6 assists per game in a grueling semifinal series against eventual champion Talk N Text. Reyes is hardly surprised with the Cool Cat's playoff performance.

"We badly needed a point guard because when Johnny (Abarrientos) left, that's what we lacked," Reyes, who admits the team had wanted to get Cortez as early as 2002, says. "We needed a point guard and since he led La Salle to two championships, he is a winner. He's a thinking player. We felt he could lead Alaska to more championships."

There are similarities between the former Ateneo spitfire and the former La Salle playmaker. Reyes, however, says the comparisons only go so far. "He was the heart and soul of La Salle. He led them to two championships the same way we won two championships when I was playing in college so in that sense, I see a little of me in him. But talent-wise, we're totally different. Mike is really the shifty, really skilled athletic player. I'm more of just speed and go-go-go."

It's been over a decade since the speedy Reyes, handicapped by a burning fever, led Ateneo over La Salle in the epic 1988 UAAP Finals. While he hopes to someday coach the Blue Eagles, Reyes understands that his role in the PBA demands that he sets aside school loyalties. "We all want to win and if I want to win I have to help Mike play better, improve his game and share things I've experienced throughout my career."

Often during the season, however, the old rivalry rears its funny head.

"Coach Jun always says during his time, I wouldn't be able to score on him and that I'm lucky he's no longer playing," shares an amused Cortez, who has former Archers Don Allado, Alvin Castro and assistant coaches Dickie Bachmann and Luigi Trillo to back him up.

That the Alaska line-up is now being dominated by La Salle players is not lost on Reyes. "*Puro* La Salle *na ang pumapasok*," observes Reyes, uncle of current Ateneo juniors standout Jai Reyes. "I have to do something about that."

When Ateneo meets La Salle in the first round of the UAAP today, expect Reyes to wear blue, Cortez, who swears he'll watch the big game at the Big Dome, to wear green and Alaska to not mind at all. The team, after all, knows these two Aces are school rivals off the court but true PBA winners at heart.

BRYANT with his attorney Pamela Mackey during the court hearing Wednesday. REUTERS

Kobe's plight surprises Tracy

ORLANDO, Florida—Tracy McGrady is surprised that fellow NBA superstar and friend Kobe Bryant didn't know better.

MCGRADY

"If you're married, stick with your wife," McGrady said Thursday. "Don't do anything crazy that's going to cause problems in your household. Keep a happy family."

Bryant is charged with one count of felony sexual assault on a 19-year-old worker at a Colorado hotel on June 30. The Los Angeles Lakers guard has said the sex was consensual.

"I hope he beats this and he can get back on the right track, stay focused and just concentrate on basketball," McGrady said.

Before being accused, Bryant enjoyed a sterling image and was showered with adulation from fans, advertisers and his peers—McGrady included.

"Kobe's a great guy, he really is, and I never thought this would occur," McGrady said. "I just thought he was that perfect guy with a good, clean image.

"One minute, you're on top of the world. And then the next, endorsement people are backing off of you." AP

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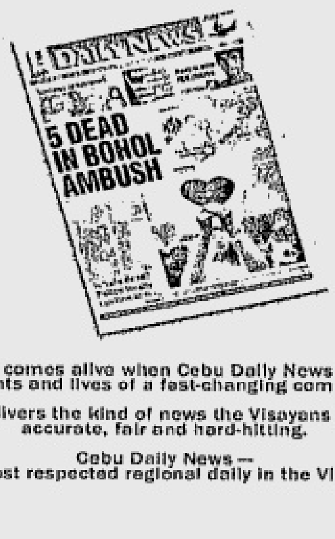

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Training camp media mobs worry Lakers

LOS ANGELES—The Los Angeles Lakers are considering changing the way they deal with the media this season because of the circus-like atmosphere the Kobe Bryant case figures to create.

Team spokesperson John Black said Thursday the team might make adjustments, including the possibility of traveling with two public relations representatives on road trips rather than one.

The Lakers don't have many answers concerning Bryant's plans for training camp, and even those who can talk about Bryant were keeping quiet or not saying much in the aftermath of the 24-year-old star's brief appearance in an Eagle, Colorado, courtroom on Wednesday.

Training camp begins Sept. 30 in Honolulu.

Veterans, including Bryant, Shaquille O'Neal and newcomers Karl Malone and Gary Payton, are scheduled to report Oct. 2.

The first full practice will be held the following day, and the Lakers face Golden State in exhibition games Oct. 7-8 before returning to Los Angeles the same day—Oct. 9—that Bryant has his preliminary hearing on a sexual assault charge. AP

Powerful Brazil five looks to Olympics

SANTO DOMINGO, Dominican Republic—Winning the men's basketball gold medal at the Pan American Games was only the first step on the way to Brazil's ultimate goal: the Olympics in Athens next year.

That team should include NBA players Nene Hilario and Leandro Barbosa, but Pan American Games hero Guilherme could also be a key player for the Brazilians.

"Our dream is to win an Olympic medal," Guilherme said. "We have a young, fast team."

In the semifinals, Guilherme put in 19 in a 92-80 win over the United States. AP

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PBA REACTION

Eala: Give them day in court

By June Navarro

IF ASI Taulava and company really violated the law, they should be held liable for their actions, but they should also be given their day in court.

PBA Commissioner Noli Eala stressed this yesterday in reaction to a Senate recommendation that Taulava and four other Fil-foreign players be summarily deported for using spurious documents and passing themselves off as Filipinos so they can play in the pro league.

Aside from Talava of Talk N Text, the other players being accused as "Fil-shams" are Rudy Hatfield of Coca-Cola, Andy Seigle of Purefoods, Davonn Harp of Red Bull and Jon Ordonio of Alaska.

Echoing an opinion by the Bureau of Immigration, the commissioner said the summary deportation proceedings are not applicable to the five players since they have already acquired Filipino citizenship.

"Summary deportation only applies to aliens. But for the players to be deported, the government... should file a case against them before the Office of the Solicitor General," said Eala.

Eala also belied claims made by Immigration chief Andrea Domingo that the fake documents submitted by the players came from the PBA.

"Those documents came from the players who submitted them to us for eligibility purposes," said Eala.

He said the PBA would take a pro-active stance and swiftly act once they get a copy of the Senate's official recommendation.

"Obviously, the Senate did a lot of work before coming out with the report," said Eala.

Alaska owner Wilfred Uytengsu agreed with Eala.

"I have the opportunity to talk with the commissioner and we agreed to look at this from two perspectives. One, what is the legal thing to do. Second, what is the moral thing to do? Those are the questions that the league and the commissioner, and the board have to ask themselves," said Uytengsu.

Meanwhile, Alaska surged to its third straight win in the ongoing Samsung-PBA Invitational championship by downing the Cebuana Lhuillier-Philippine team, 87-82.

In the nightcap, Red Bull Barako asserted itself on Novi Sad-Yugoslavia, 103-93, for its third straight victory. It was the Yugoslavs' third loss in a row.

Scores:

First Game

ALASKA 87—Peek 24, Cablay 12, Arigo 11, Cortez 9, Noble 6, Allado 6, Duat 6, Camaso 5, Padilla 4, Feihl 0, Tejada 0.

CEBUANA-RP 82—Wilson 16, Omolon 15, David 13, Pingris 10, Melencio 7, Oreta 5, Calimag 4, Franco 4, Madrid 4, Cruz 4.

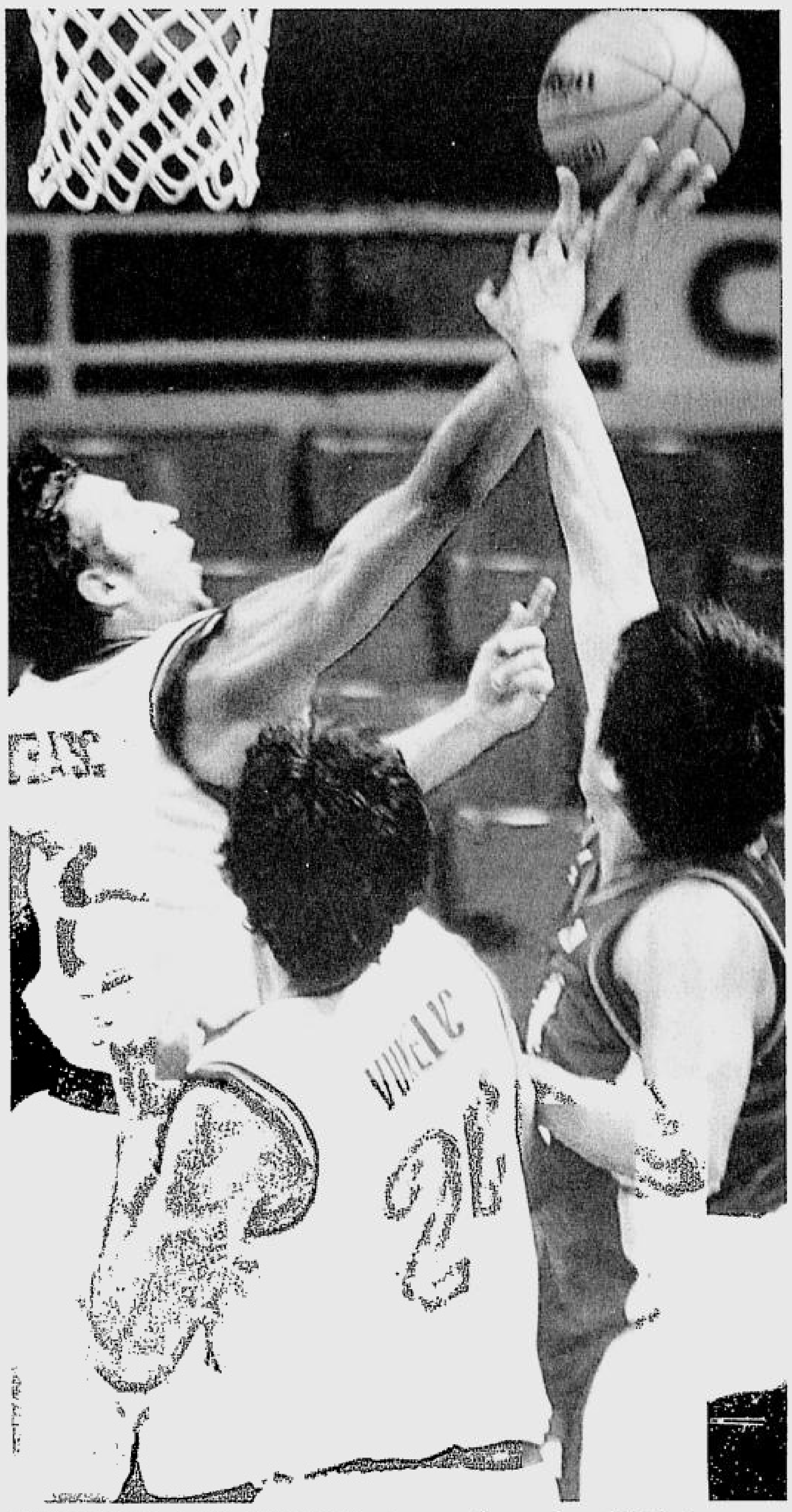
Quarters: 29-17, 51-39, 69-65, 87-82.

Second Game

RED BULL BARAKO 103—Villanueva 20, Pennisi 18, Valenzuela 15, Se 12, Miller 12, Tugade 8, Reyes 6, Hizon 6, Torion 4, Deles 2.

NOVI SAD 93—Subasic 22, Delic 21, Belgianski 19, Radovanovic 19, Popovic 6, Vilic 3, Jelisic 3, Repac 0, Kos 0, Durovic 0.

Quarters: 25-18, 49-44, 73-72, 103-92.



SLOBODAN Subasic of Novi-Sad is fouled as he goes up for an undergoal stab by Jerry Codiñera of FedEx during their recent game won by the Express, 98-81. RUDY ESPERAS

DOJ's call on case of 5 PBA 'Fil-shams'

From page A19

VILLANUEVA

and if approved, the proposal will be deemed final and forwarded to the BI for execution.

But Villanueva said the players could still appeal their cases. "So it's still a long way to go," he added.

Three of the five players being accused as Fil-Shams played for the Philippine team in last year's Asian Games in Busan, Korea—Taulava, Seigle and Hatfield.

The 6-foot-9 Taulava is also the leading contender in this year's Most Valuable Player race, having sparked Talk 'N Text to victory in the recent PBA All Filipino championship.

Hatfield and Seigle are mainstays of Coca-Cola and Purefoods, respectively. Ordonio is a benchwarmer for Alaska while Harp, who plays for Red Bull, is under indefinite suspension for failing the league's mandatory drug testing.

Domingo said the BI would request the Senate for a copy of the evidence it had gathered against the five players so that these can be referred to the DOJ for review.

The Senate had also ordered the immigration bureau to further check the status of Michael Alfio Penisi of Red Bull, Dorian Alan Peña of San Miguel and Alex Vincent Crisano of Ginebra.

According to the BI, they checked the records of the eight players and discovered that their recognition papers were processed and decided by the previous immigration administration.

For his part, lawyer Ronaldo Ledesma of the BI board of special inquiry said that the issue could be resolved with finality through judicial proceedings.

"One cannot impugn Philippine citizenship in a non-adversarial proceeding," he said.

Once the Supreme Court makes a judgment canceling the players' citizenship, the immigration bureau will immediately institute deportation proceedings. *With additional report from June Navarro*

SPORTS noodle

Bong Barrameda VOL. I NO. 041

Sporty songs

A serving of 7 questions, from easiest to toughest, each with a corresponding point value. Can you score a perfect 100 (or, at least, beat the other 'sports genius/geniuses' beside you)?

1 > 3 Pts.
☐True / ☐ False: No sports-oriented song has ever won as Oscar best song.

2 > 5 Pts.
The classic sports ditty "Take Me Out to the Ball Game" is original to what sport?
☐ Baseball
☐ American football

3 > 7 Pts.
What award-winning film theme music is set to dramatic scenes of athletes training on a beach?
☐ 'The Karate Kid'
☐ 'Hoop Dreams'
☐ 'Chariots of Fire'

4 > 10 Pts.
Which band sang 'Eye of the Tiger,' the theme song of 'Rocky 3'?
☐ Journey
☐ Chicago
☐ Survivor

5 > 15 Pts.
What song by Ricky Martin was the theme music of the 1998 World Cup in France?
☐ 'Cup of Victory'
☐ 'Cup of Life'
☐ 'Cup of Unity'
☐ 'Cup of Glory'

6 > 25 Pts.
The undying sports anthems 'We are the Champions' and 'We Will Rock You' by Queen were introduced in what 1977 album?
☐ 'News of the World'
☐ 'A Day at the Races'
☐ 'A Kind of Magic'
☐ 'The Game'

7 > 30 Pts.
What poem-inspired composition by Ludwig van Beethoven is the unofficial anthem of the Olympic Games?

ANSWERS/A25

Your guess is as good as mine

SPECTATOR

Al S. Mendoza

MY piece on Asi Taulava that appeared here yesterday elicited some interesting feedback. What stood out was: How can Taulava represent the country in the Vietnam SEA Games when he is now being recommended for deportation by Sen. Robert Barbers?

You will remember that Taulava has shown interest in joining the RP quintet to the December Games. I wrote about that and I said only Talk 'N Text can stop him from achieving his wish.

It seems that with the Barbers committee decision to recommend Taulava's deportation, the complexion of the picture has been radically altered.

The first question that comes to mind now is, will the recommendation for Taulava's deportation put an abrupt end to the player's dream to play in Vietnam?

My view is, not really. Not at the moment.

For one, the recommendation does not have a legal backbone. By its very nature, Barbers' move merely implies that he wants Taulava deported. Barbers' reason is obvious: He thinks his committee has found out that Taulava and four other Fil-Ams are not truly Fil-Ams. But belief alone cannot have the nature of legal implementation. Meaning, Taulava, although he is being recommended for deportation on the pretext that he is not truly a Fil-Am, cannot just be ejected. Remember, he has already been declared a Fil-Am by virtue of documents authenticated by the Department of Justice upon the recommendation of the Bureau of Immigration and Deportation. That matter is now for a court of law to decide.

For another, Taulava and the other four named by the Barbers committee as fake Fil-Ams have to be brought first to a court of law to face charges that they faked their papers. The burden of proof is on the prosecution since as far as Taulava & Company are concerned, their documents are true and correct as certified by both the DOJ and BID.

What I am saying is, the Barbers committee is, in effect, not really questioning Taulava & Company per se but the decision of both the DOJ and BID to declare the five players as Fil-Ams.

In short, it will really take a long process involving prolonged legal jousts before the case is resolved. Knowing how the wheels of justice in this land grind, it will take years, if not decades, before a decision is reached. A miracle is needed to resolve the case with dispatch.

To me, the more interesting view worth pondering now is the stand of PBA Commissioner Noli Eala.

Will he bar Taulava & Company from continuing to play in the PBA?

Your guess is as good as mine.

***

The word is out: De La Salle coach Franz Pumaren seems inclined to bench Marc Cardona, the star Archer, in today's much-awaited Ateneo-De La Salle clash. If Pumaren does that, he has nothing to lose and everything to gain.

Ateneo is favored to win anyway.

By benching Cardona, Pumaren will be making a statement. He'll risk losing in the name of discipline.

It's a known fact that Cardona has become an "attitude problem." Twice he has been late for practice. Several times, he has defied Pumaren's instructions to play this or that. Worst, Cardona has been reported to have repeatedly agitated several of his teammates to revolt against Pumaren.

A kin of Franz's has said: "Cardona's attitude is abnormally wrong."

Will Franz make good his threat not to field Cardona today?

Again, your guess is as good as mine.

***

FASTBREAK. The row over the absolute ownership of the 27.3-hectare Wack Wack Golf & Country Club is finally over. A memorandum of agreement to lift restrictions has been signed to this effect. The signatories were Wack Wack Chair Ben Abalos Sr. and Alfredo M. Velayo, president of the William J. Shaw Foundation. The witnesses of the landmark signing ceremony were Edgardo S. Monzon and Tommy K. Tan of the Wack Wack board, and Quirico S. Camus and Federico V. Borromeo, trustees of the Foundation. Also in attendance were Wack Wack GM S.P. Malbarosa, Dir. Thomas S. Diokno, Alfred A. Velayo, Simon M. Malca, Geraldo A. Borromeo and Mila I. Yatco . . . GERRY Zorilla, my golf buddy for years, called to say he and his friends will hold a reunion tomorrow at the Bel-Air Village Park in Makati City, with the famous Moonstrucks providing the music. Shake it and roll it, Gerry? Yo!

Michelle is Wie out of their league

GLADWYNE, Pennsylvania—Michelle Wie, the 13-year-old US golf sensation who is preparing to play against male pros, was an upset victim here Thursday in the first match-play round at the US Women's Amateur.

Hawaiian Wie, who finished second in stroke play at two-under-par 140 for 36 holes at Philadelphia Country Club, lost to 19-year-old Maru Martinez of Venezuela 1 up.

Wie has taken golf by storm with her 300-yard drives and busy schedule. She shared 15th at the Women's US Open and will play against men in a developmental tour stop next month in Boise, Idaho.

The darkness-halted second round plus the third round and quarterfinals are Friday, with winners reaching Saturday semifinals to decide Sunday finalists.

South Korea's Aree Song won the stroke-play competition that decided the 64 golfers for match play and captured her first two matches, ousting both Emily Bastel and Laura Cross by 4 and 3.

Song, who avenged the first-round ouster of her twin sister Naree by Cross 4 and 3, was fifth at last month's Women's US Open, two strokes shy of a three-way playoff for the title. *AFP*

WIE reacts to a missed putt. AP

Phelps sinks own mark for third straight gold

COLLEGE PARK, Maryland—Triple world champion Michael Phelps broke his own American record in the 200-meter freestyle to capture his third title in as many races at the United States Swim Championships here Thursday.

Phelps won in 1 minute, 45.99 seconds to beat his old mark of 1:46.60 set July 23 in Barcelona at the World Championships, where the 18-year-old from nearby Baltimore broke an unprecedented five world records.

"It was tough. The last few meters I was struggling to get in," Phelps said. "I did what I wanted, broke 1:46. This is more relaxed but I'm treating this like worlds. I'm coming to the block with everything I had at worlds."

While off the world mark of 1:44.06 set by Australia's Ian Thorpe in 2001 at Japan, Phelps showed he has the power to capture a spot on the US freestyle relays for the Athens Olympics one year from now.

"I'm beginning to like freestyle events more," Phelps said, excited about his chances in Friday's 400 freestyle final. "I want to do my best times and break as many records as possible."

Phelps, who won the 100 freestyle and 200 backstroke titles Wednesday, is not entered in his specialities, which produced world records and titles in the 200 and 400 individual medley and 200 butterfly and made him king of the pool. *AFP*

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Photograph from Filipinas Heritage Library

Favorites dodge upset ax

LOS ANGELES—Top seeds Kim Clijsters and Lindsay Davenport both prevailed with hard-fought three-set victories on Thursday to reach the quarterfinals of the $635,000 WTA Los Angeles event.

Former world No. 1 Davenport had to overcome an early deficit and a strong crosswind to beat Paola Suarez 4-6, 6-2, 6-4.

The 27-year-old American, who blasted eight aces past Suarez, advanced to the quarterfinals where she will face South Africa's Amanda Coetzer.

"It was very gusty on the court and with the wind going one way it creates some problems because the ball moves around so much. But I managed to come through in the third set," said Davenport.

Second seed Davenport will be joined in the quarters by top seed Clijsters who beat 16-year-old Maria Sharapova, of Russia, 6-4, 1-6, 6-1, in front of about 1,500 fans.

Davenport, who turned pro in 1993, said Thursday she has no plans to try and recapture the world No. 1 ranking which should change hands this week or next after Clijsters wins a few more matches.

"That would be difficult," said Davenport, who has 38 career singles titles. "Physically it takes its toll on you week in and week out.

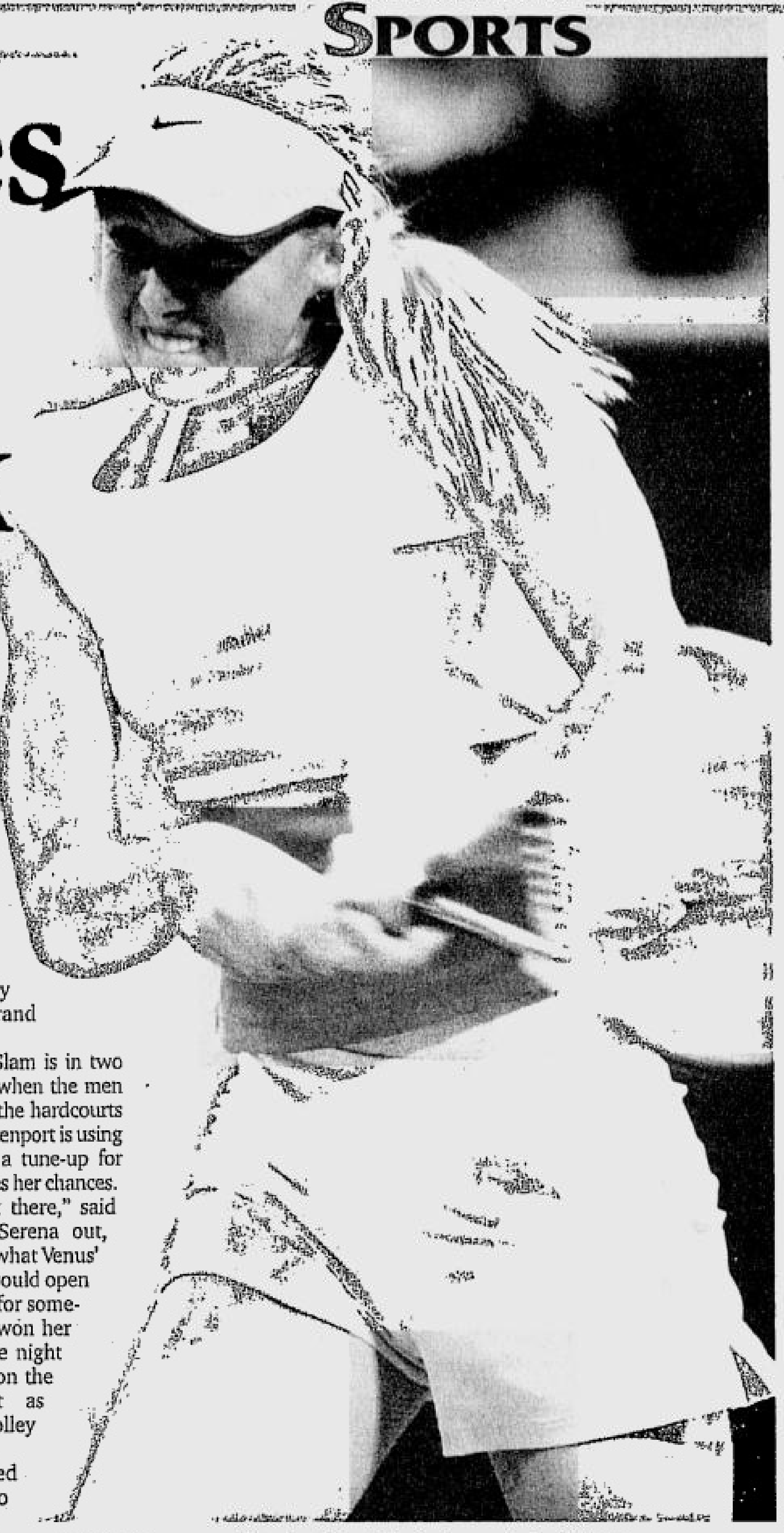
"It wears on you when you have to force yourself to stay eager and stay positive.

"Next year I don't plan to play 18-24 tournaments. I am going to cut back and try and peak for the Grand Slams."

The next Grand Slam is in two weeks in New York when the men and women take to the hardcourts for the US Open. Davenport is using this tournament as a tune-up for the US Open and likes her chances.

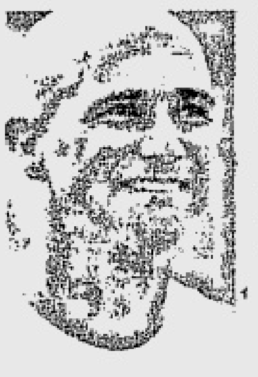
"I love the court there," said Davenport. "With Serena out, and nobody knows what Venus' status is, well that would open the door quite a bit for someone else." Clijsters won her one-hour, 19-minute night match capitalizing on the first match point as Sharapova's volley sailed wide.

Sharapova needed just 21 minutes to win the second set. *AFP*



MARIA Sharapova hits a backhand during her match with Clijsters. AFP

Agassi bucks slow start to advance



AGASSI AFP

MONTREAL—Andre Agassi stumbled out to a 4-1 deficit, then recovered to beat local wild-card entry Simon Larose, 6-4, 6-2, Thursday and reach the quarterfinals of the Canada Masters.

The top-seeded Agassi, a three-time champion at the hardcourt tune-up for the US Open, wasn't worried when he trailed.

"I quickly turned it around," he said. "Today, I definitely took a big step forward."

Agassi next faces Rainer Schuettler in a rematch of their Australian Open final in January. Agassi beat the German in straight sets then, and this will be their first meeting since.

Schuettler, seeded eighth, beat 10th-seeded Jiri Novak 7-5, 6-0.

In later action, sixth-seeded Andy Roddick made the round of eight by beating No. 9 Sebastien Grosjean 6-3, 6-3. Roddick's next opponent is Karol Kucera, who upset French Open champion Juan Carlos Ferrero 6-3, 7-5.

That allowed Wimbledon champion Roger Federer to move past Ferrero for the top spot in the ATP Champions Race, the calendar-year ratings based on performances at the top tournaments.

Federer, seeded third, eliminated No. 16 Tommy Robredo 6-4, 6-3, setting up a quarterfinal against Max Mirnyi, who upset No. 11 Paradorn Srichaphan 6-3, 6-2.

Mirnyi has won his last two hardcourt matches against Federer, including at the 2002 US Open.

David Nalbandian, the 2002 Wimbledon runner-up, downed Vince Spadea 6-4, 6-2, and next faces Feliciano Lopez, who ousted Karol Beck 6-4, 7-6 (3). *AP*

Kerr hangs up jersey

ATLANTA, Georgia—Guard Steve Kerr, who won five championships during a 14-year NBA career, announced his retirement Thursday and was hired as an analyst by Turner Network Television.

The announcement came less than two months after Kerr captured his fifth title and second with the San Antonio Spurs.

"It was tough to pass up the opportunity to play another year for the Spurs, but I'm so thrilled about the opportunity to work with TNT," Kerr said. "It was the only way I'd pass up another year of playing in the NBA." Kerr, 37, is the most accurate 3-point shooter in league history at 45.4 percent.

He also holds the single-season record for long-range accuracy at 52.4 percent in 1994-95 and won the 1997 Long Distance Shootout during All-Star Weekend.

Kerr's other three championships came with the Chicago Bulls from 1995-1998. *AFP*

Lakers, Kings in grudge match

NEW YORK—The NBA preseason will begin in Mexico and Europe and close with a grudge match between the Los Angeles Lakers and Sacramento Kings.

The rivalry that featured a bench-clearing brawl in last year's final exhibition game was one of the highlights of the league's 116-game preseason schedule released Thursday.

Dallas and Utah will open the preseason Oct. 5 in Mexico City. In the other international exhibitions, the Memphis Grizzlies play the champion San Antonio Spurs in Paris on Oct. 8 and Memphis faces FC Barcelona in Barcelona, Spain, on Oct. 10.

The Philadelphia 76ers and Miami Heat meet Oct. 7 in San Juan, Puerto Rico—one of 32 non-NBA cities teams will visit during the preseason.

High school sensation LeBron James of the Cleveland Cavaliers has his first possible meeting with Kobe Bryant and the Los Angeles Lakers on Oct. 16.

Bryant's preliminary hearing on sexual assault charges in Eagle, Colorado, is scheduled for a week earlier. The Lakers play their first two exhibition games Oct. 7-8 in Honolulu.

A fight in last season's exhibition finale resulted in a six-game suspension for the Lakers' Rick Fox and a two-game suspension of Sacramento's Doug Christie. *AP*

Splendid Love goes 9 under

DENVER, Colorado—Davis Love shot a spectacular 9-under-par 63 on Thursday to take a handy lead after the first round at the International.

Love reeled off 10 birdies and one bogey to pick up 19 points in the modified Stableford format at Castle Pines.

He was five points ahead of Charles Howell and seven in front of Bob Tway and Jonathan Kaye.

Some of the players did not complete the round due to a weather delay of nearly two hours.

Greg Norman, who played with Love, was impressed by what he saw.

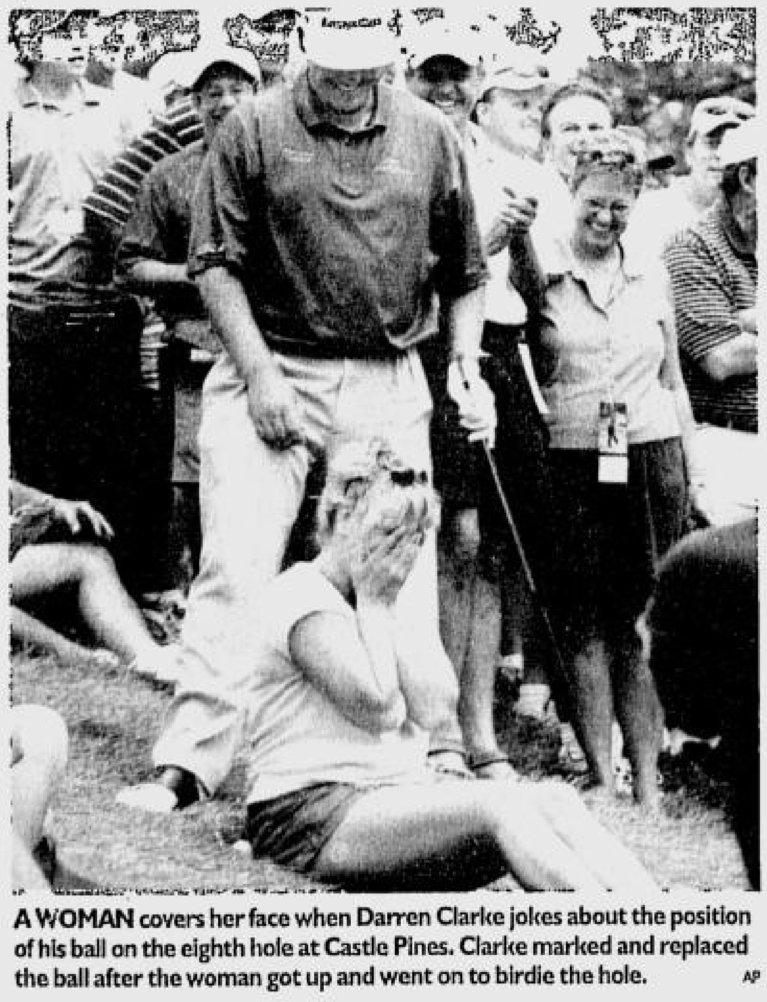
"Magnificent," said Norman, a former world No. 1 who won this event in 1989.

"He hit it long and straight and he never missed a putt. Everything was right in the middle of the hole. It's a joy to watch someone hit it as solid as he did." Love was thrilled.

"It's the most points I've ever had in one day," he added. "I only hit one bad tee shot, one bad wedge and one bad 6-iron. I couldn't hit it or putt it much better."

Howell, who played in the easier morning conditions, shot a flawless 7-under 65 for 14 points.

"Any time you go off early here, you need to make a bunch of birdies," he said. *AFP*



A WOMAN covers her face when Darren Clarke jokes about the position of his ball on the eighth hole at Castle Pines. Clarke marked and replaced the ball after the woman got up and went on to birdie the hole. AP

SPORTSWATCH

La Salle badminton all set

LA SALLE alumni, students, parents and teachers gear up for the 2003 All La Salle Badminton Meet set tomorrow, Aug. 15, 16 and 17 at the FMAC of La Salle Greenhills. A big number of entries coming from the Grade School, High School and College levels are expected to see action in the Students Category kicking off tomorrow. The Alumni Category will unfurl from Aug. 15-17. The success of last year's first-ever "Smash for Smash" La Salle-Ateneo Badminton Tournament won by the Green Archers, inspired organizers to come up with this age group event in preparation for the second edition of the arch rivals' meet this year. The All La Salle Badminton Meet is open to all alumnus, students, parents and teachers of La Salle affiliate schools. Organizers are Drs. Ramon and Dina Guerrero of LSGH Badminton Club. For information, call Ludie Bautista of the LSGHAA at 721-2729.

Tuason High enters semis

TAGUM CITY—Reigning titlist Jose Tuason High routed Panabo National High, 3-0, yesterday to lead three other teams into the crossover semifinals of the Davao Norte eliminations in the 20th Coke Go for Goal under-16 football tournament at the Gov. Rodolfo del Rosario field here. Ariel Infante, Julkhair Sakurat and Alberto scored a goal each to power Tuason High to a five-game sweep in Group A of the tourney sponsored by Coca-Cola Export Corp. Tagum National High, Davao Norte National High and Sto. Tomas National High joined the defending champion in the semis. Tagum High whipped Kimamon National High, 3-0, on hat-trick by Alvin Baguio in the 24th, 34th and 53rd minutes. Sto. Tomas High toppled Carmen National High, 3-0, on goals by Rodel Royo and Franz Cabilin. It will be Tuason against Tagum and Sto. Tomas against Davao Norte High in the semifinals. The winners will dispute the title and the first slot in the all-Davao sub-regional finals tomorrow. Over in Mabini, Compostella Valley, defending champion Maco National High beat Anislagan High, 4-0, to top Group A with four straight wins. Mabini National High bounced back from an opening day loss to Maco High to blank Eleazalda High, 5-0, and New Leyte High, 2-0.

DLSU booters beat Ateneo

DE LA SALLE University edged Ateneo de Manila, 3-2, recently in the Samsung Ladies Open at the Zobel pitch in Alabang. The win came after the La Salle Zobel girls team beat Ateneo, 2-0, in the same tournament. In the 25th minute, DLSU midfielder Mariel Benitez hammered one to the top right corner—from 30 yards out—to begin hostilities. A minute later she added a second goal to give La Salle a 2-0 halftime lead. Ateneo and RP team defender Karen Octaviano scored with a penalty kick in the 57th minute and striker Carla Paredes made it 2-2 in the 75th in an 'escapada.' With seven minutes to go, however, DLSU midfielder KC Hernandez smashed the ball into the back of the net from a cross by right-winger Inna Alejandro to seal La Salle's win. With that win, coach Merl Acibar and her La Sallians remain unbeaten and on top of the table in the "Samsung Ladies Open." Ateneo coach Joecox Villarino and his squad dropped down to 6th place.

UP women rout PUP, 8-1

UNIVERSITY of the Philippines pounced on Polytechnic University of the Philippines' lackluster stand to post an 8-1 slaughter recently in the Samsung Ladies Open at the Zobel pitch in Alabang. The UP women's squad of coach Mike Athab thus climbed to second spot behind De La Salle University. After seven goals into the back of the PUP net by Angela Fraga, Jennifer Marquez, Elisa Benitez (2) and Rea Villa (a hat trick!), the eighth was a 'keepers delight' when UP goalie Melissa Marquez stepped up and scored from the spot.

Altea, Noora share honors

JOEL Altea IV and David Noora took low gross and low net honors, respectively, in the "Sen. Roco Cup" golf tournament held recently at the Manila Southwoods. This was the seventh leg of this year's Don Bosco Golf Club series of competition according to Wally Tengco, club spokesperson. The other winners are Class A Carlito Chua, champion; Tony Manalo, runner-up; Class B Alex Santos, champion; Gerald de Leon, runner-up; Class C Aris Lara, champion; Romy Villamora, runner-up; Class D Rollie Pimentel, champion; Jamari Hill, runner-up; Ladies champion Cora Tan; guests Gene Bondoc, champion; and Mike Bibat, runner-up. Club president Joseph C. Sison said the club accepts membership even those who are non-residents of Barangay Don Bosco in Parañaque City. The next tournament, called the Bankwise Cup, is scheduled Aug. 27 at the Villamor Golf Club.

Rallycross championship tomorrow

THE ONCE-POSTPONED fourth round of the Ultron National Rallycross Championship will be held tomorrow at the Liwasang Ipil-ipil, CCP Complex in Pasay City. The 10-round rallycross championship is sponsored by Petron Ultron, Blaze and Diesel Max . The races were originally scheduled on July 27, but the Makati siege that day forced the organizing Activity Asia Association to postpone the round. About 35 rallycross drivers are expected to vie for the 11 regular categories up for grabs in the series. Last year's winner of the premier NRC 19 production class was 18-year-old Ivan Isada, who will be challenged this year by his father, Vip Isada, and Kenneth Dominado.

Tioseco lands 5th in superbike

LONE female novice racer Love-Love Tioseco finished fifth anew in the recent Ducati Cup superbike races held at the Batangas Racing Circuit. Other members of the Ducati Desmo squad were Toti, Alberto, Victor Velasquez, Robert Cervantes, Philip Alvendia, Manny Angeles, Erwin Frondoso, Brian Ng and Dexter Tuscano. Tioseco used a Ducati Senna 916 superbike, which was modified by her race mechanic Dilbert "Bharok" Canlobo, for the event.

Pro boxing goes to Angeles

THE PPBL (Philippine Pro-Boxing League) brings its action on the road on Aug. 16, at the Casino Filipino Angeles in Pampanga. The fight card will feature the top eight flyweights of the PPBL who have advanced to the quarterfinals after surviving a grueling elimination series held at the Mandaluyong Gym recently. To be featured will be the RP flyweight champ Eugene Gonzales vs June Eballe, former RP flyweight Roger Maldecir vs Danilo Pena, Philip Parcon vs Gerald Ubatay and Alfred Nagal vs Elmer Muyco. The PPBL is shown every Thursday, 8-9 p.m. at IBC-13 and is a production of I-Sports Action TV together with Solar Sports Entertainment.

Checkmate clinic resumes

THE MILO Checkmate Saturday-only clinic resumes today at the following venues: Rizal Memorial Sports Complex (RMSC) in Vito Cruz, Manila and J & F Divino Building at 967 Aurora Boulevard near Anonas St. in Quezon City. Fun games like blitz and problem-solving contests are among the activities prepared for the early enrollees by the organizing Metropolitan Chess Club and Checkmate Phils. Medals and chess materials like USA Inside Chess magazines will be given away to the winners. Clinic at RMSC will start from 8 a.m. to 12 noon at the Badminton Building while at J&F—two sessions are available: 9 a.m to 1 p.m. and 2-6 p.m. Only preparatory and beginner courses are available at RMSC while all courses including Intermediate and Advance are available at J & F. Open to kids who are 5-8 years old, enrollees are advised to proceed at the venue site of their choice. For details, call 826-8560 and 0916-1069.

NBL Championship gets another corporate backer

THE NATIONAL Basketball League family continues to grow.

Another sports-oriented company, Burlington Industries Phils. Inc., has joined its roster of supporters for the 1st NBL National Championship.

NBL secretary general Tito Palma and Burlington Industries Phils. general manager Ruddy Tan signed the deal yesterday, a few days after National Panasonic finalized a similar pact with the NBL.

"We're very happy that another top company (Burlington) joined as our solid partner for the semifinals and finals of the national championship," said Palma. "This is a good sign that this young league is on the right track, considering the initial success and attention it has been gaining."

"NBL is not just a basketball league but a potent avenue to promote goodwill and the gospel of sports through basketball. Burlington shares the same vision and the big crowd NBL has been getting is the biggest factor leading toward that goal," said Tan.

Palma also announced that the NBL semifinals has been reset from Aug. 17 to 24 to give M. Lhuillier-Kwarta Padala time to prepare after its recent stint in the Qatar International Invitational tournament.

The best-of-three semifinal matches pit Forward Taguig against Pampanga Bulls while Lhuillier goes up against Compak Shineway-Ozamiz City.

Sponsored by Tanduay Rhum, Air Philippines, PCSO, Panasonic, Cebu Ferries, SuperCat, Gatorade, Nature's Spring Drinking Water, BJ Star Logistics, The Freeman, Sinners and Saints, Jaguar KTV and Molten Basketballs, the matches will be telecast over IBC-13 through the facilities of Silverstar Communications Inc.

The winners will clash in another best-of-three series for the crown while the losers play a one-game match for third place.

Paragua, Sanchez stay in pursuit of chess title

FILIPINO International Masters Mark Paragua and Joseph Sanchez hurdled their fifth round rivals Thursday night and stayed in the title hunt of the X Championnat International Chess Championship at the Grand Aston Hotel in Nice, France.

The 19-year-old Paragua defeated Fide Master Fabricio Patuzzo of Switzerland while Sanchez trounced Hagop Makaryan of France to raise their total to 4 points, just half a point behind co-leaders GM Igor Miladinovic of Greece and GM Damor Komljenovik of Croatia.

Paragua and Sanchez, both eyeing GM results, agreed to a friendly draw in the fourth round and were among those tied from 3rd to 11th places.

PARAGUA

SANCHEZ

Also with 4 points were GM Vladimir Georgiev, GM Milko Povchev of Bulgaria, GM Bela Badea of Romania, GM Nenad Sulava and IM Milan Mrdja of Croatia, IM Benjamin Bujisho of France and Fide Master Igor Solomunovic.

"There are four rounds to go and we need to make our move. Please continue praying for us," said Paragua, the 1998 World Rapid under-14 champion in a long distance interview yesterday.

The other Filipino in the 164-man field, Asian 3.2a Zonal champion IM Ronald Dableo bowed to FM Solomunovic and remained at 3 points. Dableo split the point with GM Sulava in round 4.

In the sixth round, Paragua will handle black against GM Milkov while Sanchez will test the mettle of GM Sulava. Dableo tries to bounce back into contention against Gabrielle Di Lazzaro of Italy.

Miladinovic, the 1994 world junior champion, and Komljenovik clash in the top board. *Roy Luarca with a report from NM Marlon Bernardino*

LIGHT ADVENTURE CHAMPS

Team Game Plan, composed of (from left) Tricia Chiongbian, Carlo Ledesma, Akiko Thomson and Rovilson Fernandez, prevailed in the recent Enduro San Mig Light Adventure Race. Also in photo at right is host Paolo Abrera.

Mandaluyong pugs outbox Novo Ecijanos

MANDALUYONG City boxing team nipped Team Nueva Ecija, 4-3, late Friday night in the Amateur Boxing Association of the Philippines' Go for Gold presentation "Bakbakan sa Sta. Rosa" at the Sta. Rosa Municipal Plaza in Nueva Ecija.

Pinweight Gerald Dave Garcia and lightflyweight Richard Ignacio led Mandaluyong's onslaught by beating Nueva Ecija's Jayson Agapito, 4-8, and Eric Jardeleza, RSCO, respectively.

Mandaluyong pride Richard Agagad proved his worth over Rafael Laman, 74-59, in the featherweight class, while lightwelterweight Dandy Francisco beat Richie Bukoy, 57-46, to seal the victory for Mandaluyong City.

Host Nueva Ecija extracted victories from flyweight Eduardo Buenaventura, who defeated Joe Bridonia, RSCO-1:03 first round; lightweight Jericho Hizon, who trounced Edwin Dabucol, RSCO-1:59 first round; and bantamweight Richard Briones, who ousted Ian Bustos, 58-48.

The slugfest was sponsored by WG&A Superferry, Waterfront hotels, Revicon, Family Rubbing Alcohol, Accel, and Pacific Heights. Other winners were Philippine Army's Godfrey Castro, who defeated Bill Vicera of Bago City, 85-76, in a special bout. In the women's class, flyweight Annie Albania of UE zapped Mindoreno Annaliza Cruz, 52-36. Philippine Navy's Roel Laguna beat Ferdie Gamo, 67-52, in the featherweight division and Iguisquiza demolished Mark Jason Melligen of Bago City, 66-56. Maximiano Tabangcora won over Maraon Goles, 62-50 , in the light middleweight class.

Juvenile stakes races tomorrow

PROMISING gallopers take center stage tomorrow at the Sta. Ana Park as they compete in two featured P1 million events marking the start of the 2003 Philracom "Juvenile Stakes Series" for locally bred two-year-old colts and fillies.

The twin stakes offering caps Philippine Racing Club's 5-day racing schedule and headlines the club's 14-ace Sunday program.

Set to compete in the first of two major two-year-old races are six precocious fillies, recent graduates of Maiden Division, who'll be disputing the first leg of the 2003 "Juvenile Fillies Stakes Series" over a distance of 1,450 meters.

Heading the field of challengers is Enrico Cabansag's undefeated filly Cat's Eye, set to be skippered by ace journeyman Joe Noel Camu. The Juanito Macaraig-trained galloper is by former champion import Marangal (NZ) out of Go Go and was bred by Augusto Benedicto Santos.

Expected to crowd her for the premier spot are Cat's Jewel, Bella Firenze, Gorgeous Sand, Formidable Ella and Sweet Talk, to be ridden by jockeys Jeffril Zarate, Patricio Dilema, Jonathan Hernandez, Virgilio Camañero Jr. and Dominador Borbe Jr., respectively.

Meanwhile, a crack field of nine two-year-old colts is set to do battle in the first leg of the 2003 "Juvenile Colts Stakes Series" over 1,450 meters.

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BORACAY ISLAND, PHILIPPINES

AQUATHLON

Triathlon Association of the Philippines president Tom Carrasco (left) and Alternative Events Group AEG general manager Nino Sinco recently formalized the country's hosting of the 2nd Asian Aquathlon Championships in Boracay in December.

Canadian Grand Prix taken off F1 calendar

MONTREAL—The Canadian Grand Prix has been taken off next season's Formula One calendar, race promoter Normand Legault announced here on Thursday.

Legault told a press conference that he had received a letter from F1 supremo Bernie Ecclestone confirming that the Montreal race did not figure on the 2004 Formula One menu.

The omission of the race at the Gilles Villeneuve circuit is due to tough new laws curbing tobacco advertising at sporting events set to be introduced here on October 1.

News of Canada's demise came one week after the 2004 Belgium GP at Spa-Francorchamps was reinstated a year after it was stripped of its F1 status.

Spa was taken off the calendar after changes to tough laws on tobacco advertising similar to those in Canada were watered down to cater for sporting events like GPs.

This season's Canada GP was won by Ferrari's world champion Michael Schumacher. *AFP*

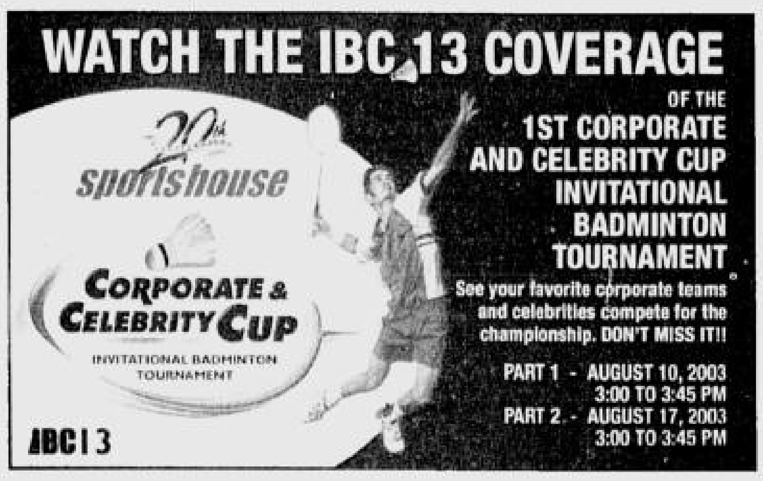
JUNIOR TENNIS WINNERS

Zamboanga City Lawn Tennis Association president Al Allian, regional director James Ramirez and sports patron Director Soriano Eddun, together with Children's Tennis Workshop's Jovy Mamawal, pose with the winners—led by Jimo Salip—in the 2003 Milo Junior Tennis Cup and Regional Workshop.

SPORTS noodle

ANSWERS From page A22

1. True
2. Baseball
3. 'Charlots of Fire'
4. Survivor
5. 'Cup of Life'
6. 'News of the World'
7. 'Ode to Joy'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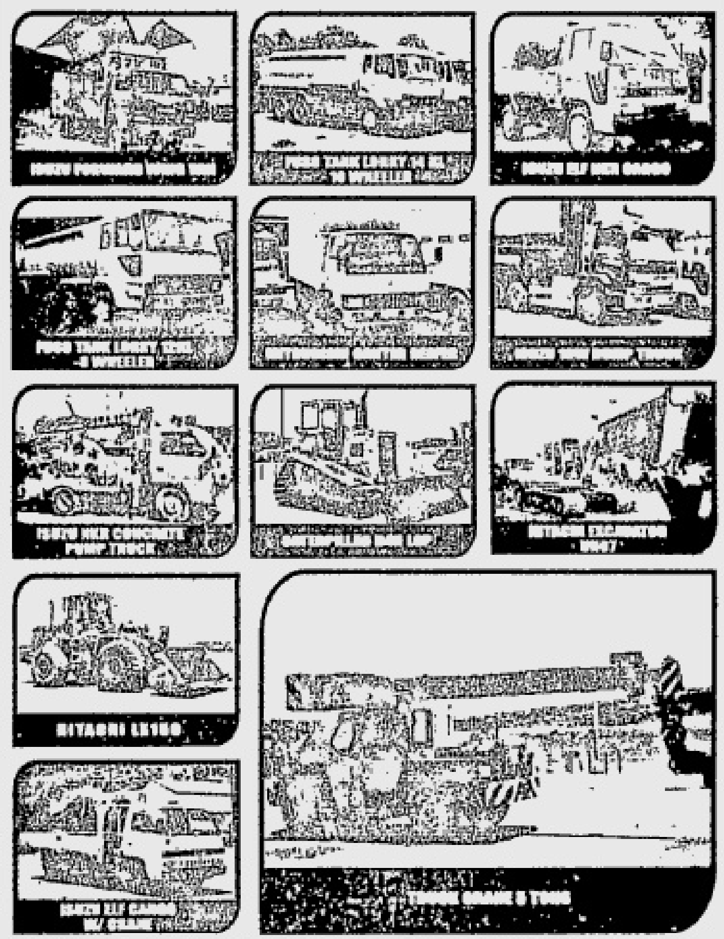

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SPORTS

YOUNG DANCE CHAMPS

Rener Mercado, 14, and Judith Anne Melecio, 12, show their winning form in the Latin American discipline of the recent Midyear Ranking-Alaxan.

Nationals playing in ABC for sure

RP-CEBUANA Lhuillier is definitely seeing action in the Asian Basketball Confederation men's championship slated Sept. 23-Oct. 1 in Hailongjan City, Guangdong province, China.

This was the assurance given by RP-Cebuana assistant team manager Danny Francisco yesterday during the Scoop sa Kamayan at Kamayan West.

"The ABC stint will push through because, aside from the Southeast Asian Games, that is the commitment of Mr. Lhuillier (Jean Henri) to the national team," he said.

Lhuillier, owner of the Cebu Gems in the defunct Metropolitan Basketball Association, is the team manager of the all-amateur Philippine team honing up for its defense of the Southeast Asia Basketball Association and SEA Games crowns in December.

DE OCAMPO

The Seaba men's tournament, originally set in Cebu City, has been moved to Kuala Lumpur on Aug. 18-23 after the Basketball Association of the Philippines failed to generate enough funds to host the event.

Apart from the Seaba and the ABC, the RP five of coach Aric del Rosario is also competing in the Hong Kong Invitational Championship set Aug. 25-Sept. 1 as part of the Nationals' buildup for the Vietnam SEAG.

Del Rosario said members of the Philippine team seeing action in the PBA Invitationals will form the core of the RP Cebuana Lhuillier squad.

The addition of St. Francis of Assisi standouts Ranidel de Ocampo and Ervin Sotto will definitely boost the Philippines' title-retention chances in the Seaba and SEAG, according to Del Rosario.

"The entry of these two big men (De Ocampo is 6-foot-5 and Sotto 6-7) definitely strengthened the team," added Del Rosario. *Roy Luarca*

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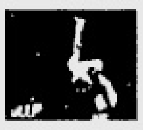
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OFW remittances seen hitting $7.6B

By Clarissa S. Batino

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"I think we could hit a 5-percent growth in OFW remittances this year from about $7.2 billion last year," Bangko Sentral Governor Rafael Buenaventura told reporters yesterday.

The central bank has programmed a flat growth in OFW remittances this year in coming up with its external payments targets. As of May, however, the year-on-year growth stood at 9.77 percent at $3.29 billion from $2.99 billion in the same period in 2002.

The level of remittances has started to pick up from the observed slowdown during the first few months of the year when prospects of employment abroad became less attractive due to uncertainties caused by the US-Iraq war followed by the outbreak of the Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome virus.

While both concerns have eased, deployment this year remained lower compared to 2002, according to the labor department.

Buenaventura said he was hopeful that dollar inflow from offshore workers would continue to reach new peaks this year despite a slowdown in growth compared to 2002 when remittances were growing at high double-digit levels each month.

Dollar remittances form part of the country's current account, a big component of the balance of payments reflecting movements in trade. The BSP expects the current account surplus to hit $2.36 billion this year although as of April, the surplus stood only at $342 million.

BUENAVENTURA

OFW remittances are counted on to boost the supply of dollars in the spot market and help keep the peso stable.

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Labor Secretary Patricia Sto. Tomas said that as of the first week of July, deployment was lower by about 4 percent compared to the previous year when new hires and rehires who left the country reached 495,000.

"Our OFW stock is more than 7.5 million and although deployment is down, we notice that more and more skilled workers are leaving also for higher paying jobs," the labor chief said.

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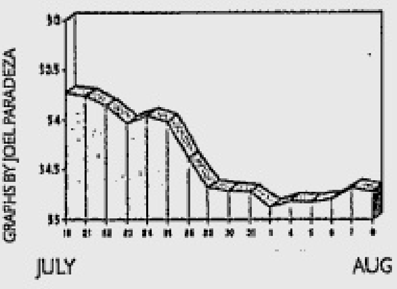

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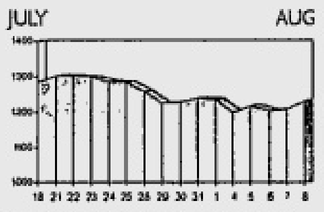
GOLD: $353.80-354.00
per ounce Hong Kong, Aug. 8, 2003

August 8, 2003 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.879353	1.000000	54.745000
Japan	Yen	0.007391	0.008405	0.460100
United Kingdom	Pound	1.423057	1.618300	88.593800
Hongkong	Dollar	0.112748	0.128217	7.019200
Switzerland	Franc	0.651179	0.740521	40.539800
Canada	Dollar	0.631719	0.718391	39.328300
Singapore	Dollar	0.500770	0.569476	31.176000
Australia	Dollar	0.572644	0.651211	35.650500
Bahrain	Dinar*	2.332625	2.652661	145.219900
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.234494	0.266667	14.598700
Brunei	Dollar	0.499348	0.567859	31.087400
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000103	0.000117	0.006400
Thailand	Baht	0.021007	0.023889	1.307800
UAE	Dirham	0.239423	0.272272	14.905500
Euro	Euro	1.000000	1.137200	62.256000
Argentina	Peso	0.301148	0.342466	18.748300
Brazil	Real	0.293803	0.334113	18.291000
Denmark	Kroner	0.134509	0.152964	8.374000
India	Rupee	0.019166	0.021796	1.193200
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.231440	0.263193	14.408500
Mexico	New Peso	0.082398	0.093703	5.129800
New Zealand	Dollar	0.511074	0.581193	31.817400
Norway	Kroner	0.122551	0.139365	7.629500
Pakistan	Rupee	0.015280	0.017376	0.951200
South Africa	Rand	0.121248	0.137883	7.548400
Korea	Won	0.000742	0.000844	0.046200
Sweden	Kroner	0.108535	0.123426	6.757000
Syria	Pound	0.020937	0.023810	1.303500
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.025600	0.029112	1.593700
Venezuela	Bolivar	0.000551	0.000627	0.034300

STOCK MARKET

Stocks up more than 2%

PSE COMPOSITE INDEX



(See stock market report on Page B2)

STOCKS ended up more than 2 percent yesterday as local investors were cheered by continued foreign interest despite security and political concerns after a failed troop mutiny on July 27, traders said.

"It was more of a technical bounce. Fundamentally, many large caps are still okay at these prices," said Nestor Aguila, chairman of DA Market Securities.

With foreigners remaining net buyers in the week after the uprising by more than 300 elite soldiers, some domestic players have been encouraged to venture back into the market, he added.

From July 28 to Aug. 1, foreigners were net buyers of P380 million worth of stocks.

The main index ended up 2.12 percent or 25.63 points at 1,232.88. It fell 0.19 percent on the week but is up 21.06 percent so far this year.

Turnover was moderate at P487.4 million but well above Thursday's P366.7 million.

Another trader said the market's ability to hold at the psychological support mark of 1,200 points had reactivated buying interest, which was likely to continue at the start of next week.

"Maybe we could see (a rise of) another 20 points if nothing negative happens over the weekend," said Joey Roxas, president of Eagle Equities.

Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. surged 3.5 percent to P510 on top turnover of P90.5 million.

Reuters

Beyond Cable still hopeful on merger with Destiny

DOMINANT cable operator Beyond Cable Holdings Inc. said it remained confident that it could convince No. 2 player Destiny Cable Inc. to consolidate with it in the future.

"Talks are still ongoing. They never stopped. Yes, our debts are the big deterrent, but we're about to sign a restructuring agreement (with our creditor-banks). I think we have a very good chance of this pushing through," SkyCable Central CATV Inc. chair Eugenio Lopez III told the INQUIRER.

The Beyond Cable consortium, composed of top cable firms SkyCable and Philippine Home Cable Holdings Inc., late last year signed a memorandum of agreement with Destiny Cable to explore the possibility of consolidation.

However, Destiny Cable announced in early June that merger talks collapsed due to "certain critical financial issues" that the two parties failed to resolve.

"We feel that joining the consortium of Beyond Cable at this time would not be beneficial to the long-term viability of Destiny Cable and likewise run contrary to the general interest of our subscribers as well as stockholders," Destiny Cable spokesperson Beda Mañalac said in an earlier statement.

An industry source disclosed that valuation problems stemmed from the two companies' difference in debt levels. Beyond Cable had aboutP2.5 billion in debts, while Destiny Cable was virtually debt-free.

Destiny Cable president and chief executive David Lim said in an earlier interview that the cable firm was not keen on joining the Beyond Cable consortium at this time as it did not want to be

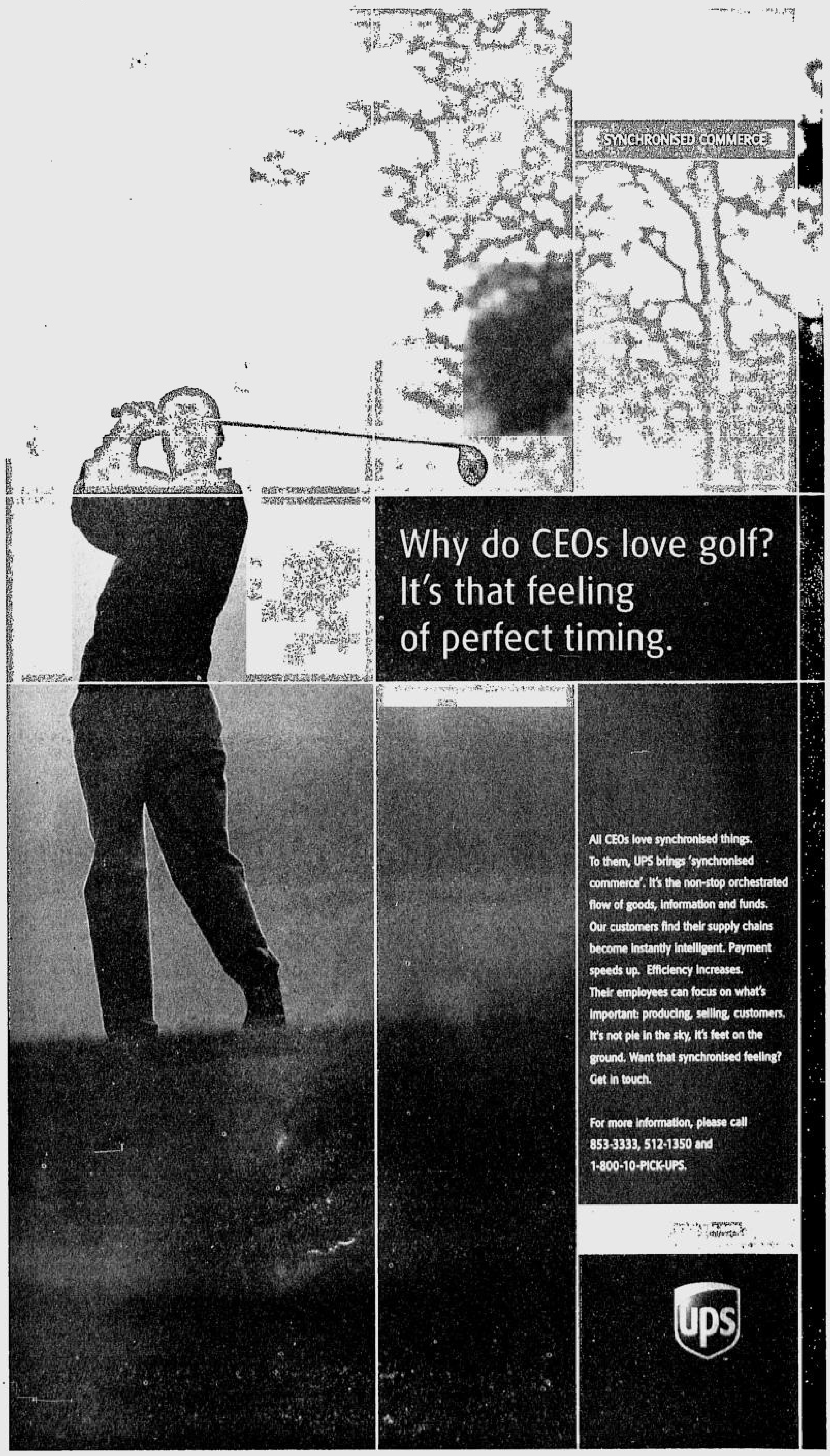
BEYOND/B2

INTEREST RATES

August 8, 2003-MART1 Rates

Benchmark Interest Rates	MART1 8-Aug-03	MART1 7-Aug-03
1 Month	6.1679	6.1554
3 Months	6.0286	6.005
6 Months	6.9429	6.9967
1 Year	8	7.87
2 Years	9.3393	9.3617
3 Years	9.9339	9.9214
4 Years	10.3479	10.3946
5 Years	10.6171	10.65
7 Years	11.2196	11.2263
10 Years	11.7607	11.82
20 Years	12.0429	12.0367
25 Years	12.4429	12.4133

SOURCE: MART/BLOOMBERG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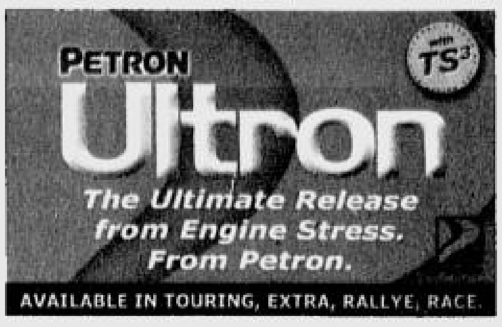
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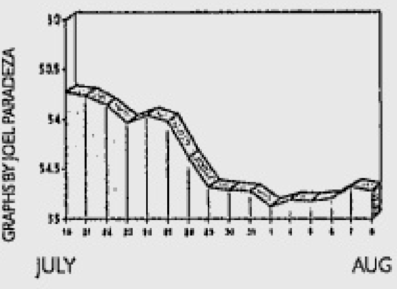

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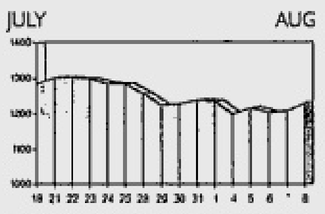
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000103	0.000117	0.006400
Thailand	Baht	0.021007	0.023889	1.307800
UAE	Dirham	0.239423	0.272272	14.905500
Euro	Euro	1.000000	1.137200	62.256000
Argentina	Peso	0.301148	0.342466	18.748300
Brazil	Real	0.293803	0.334113	18.291000
Denmark	Kroner	0.134509	0.152964	8.374000
India	Rupee	0.019166	0.021796	1.193200
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.231440	0.263193	14.408500
Mexico	New Peso	0.082398	0.093703	5.129800
New Zealand	Dollar	0.511074	0.581193	31.817400
Norway	Kroner	0.122551	0.139365	7.629500
Pakistan	Rupee	0.015280	0.017376	0.951200
South Africa	Rand	0.121248	0.137883	7.548400
Korea	Won	0.000742	0.000844	0.046200
Sweden	Kroner	0.108535	0.123426	6.757000
Syria	Pound	0.020937	0.023810	1.303500
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.025600	0.029112	1.593700
Venezuela	Bolivar	0.000551	0.000627	0.034300

STOCK MARKET

Stocks up more than 2%

PSE COMPOSITE INDEX



(See stock market report on Page B2)

STOCKS ended up more than 2 percent yesterday as local investors were cheered by continued foreign interest despite security and political concerns after a failed troop mutiny on July 27, traders said.

"It was more of a technical bounce. Fundamentally, many large caps are still okay at these prices," said Nestor Aguila, chairman of DA Market Securities.

With foreigners remaining net buyers in the week after the uprising by more than 300 elite soldiers, some domestic players have been encouraged to venture back into the market, he added.

From July 28 to Aug. 1, foreigners were net buyers of P380 million worth of stocks.

The main index ended up 2.12 percent or 25.63 points at 1,232.88. It fell 0.19 percent on the week but is up 21.06 percent so far this year.

Turnover was moderate at P487.4 million but well above Thursday's P366.7 million.

Another trader said the market's ability to hold at the psychological support mark of 1,200 points had reactivated buying interest, which was likely to continue at the start of next week.

"Maybe we could see (a rise of) another 20 points if nothing negative happens over the weekend," said Joey Roxas, president of Eagle Equities.

Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. surged 3.5 percent to P510 on top turnover of P90.5 million.

Reuters

Beyond Cable still hopeful on merger with Destiny

DOMINANT cable operator Beyond Cable Holdings Inc. said it remained confident that it could convince No. 2 player Destiny Cable Inc. to consolidate with it in the future.

"Talks are still ongoing. They never stopped. Yes, our debts are the big deterrent, but we're about to sign a restructuring agreement (with our creditor-banks). I think we have a very good chance of this pushing through," SkyCable Central CATV Inc. chair Eugenio Lopez III told the INQUIRER.

The Beyond Cable consortium, composed of top cable firms SkyCable and Philippine Home Cable Holdings Inc., late last year signed a memorandum of agreement with Destiny Cable to explore the possibility of consolidation.

However, Destiny Cable announced in early June that merger talks collapsed due to "certain critical financial issues" that the two parties failed to resolve.

"We feel that joining the consortium of Beyond Cable at this time would not be beneficial to the long-term viability of Destiny Cable and likewise run contrary to the general interest of our subscribers as well as stockholders," Destiny Cable spokesperson Beda Mañalac said in an earlier statement.

An industry source disclosed that valuation problems stemmed from the two companies' difference in debt levels. Beyond Cable had aboutP2.5 billion in debts, while Destiny Cable was virtually debt-free.

Destiny Cable president and chief executive David Lim said in an earlier interview that the cable firm was not keen on joining the Beyond Cable consortium at this time as it did not want to be

BEYOND/ B2

INTEREST RATES

August 8, 2003-MART1 Rates

Benchmark Interest Rates	MART1 8-Aug-03	MART1 7-Aug-03
1 Month	6.1679	6.1554
3 Months	6.0286	6.005
6 Months	6.9429	6.9967
1 Year	8	7.87
2 Years	9.3393	9.3617
3 Years	9.9339	9.9214
4 Years	10.3479	10.3946
5 Years	10.6171	10.65
7 Years	11.2196	11.2263
10 Years	11.7607	11.82
20 Years	12.0429	12.0367
25 Years	12.4429	12.4133

SOURCE: MART/BLOOMBERG

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Change for the bitter

BREAKTIME

Conrado R. Banal III

SOMEBODY must do something about those rumors about that multi-billion-peso account in a subsidiary of one of the biggest local banks.

Nowadays, you see, they don't make rumors like they used to do in the good old days of the man named Band ... Wrist Band.

Today, the quality of rumors is pathetic. For instance, I myself received information that the rumors were wrong.

The fortune is said to belong to a certain Joey "V," a moniker apparently created by a devotee of the christening style of the rap artists of this generation. Yo!

***

ALL right, the caller told me, but in a tone which said that I deserve to face a court martial, that if stupid reporters insisted on using a nickname, it definitely must not be "Joey."

Such a nickname implies that the person is young. It is what we, meaning, my generation, call a person who took the name "Jose," either as real name or as alias.

It so happens that the enormous account, supposedly under a fictitious name, at least based on the rumors, belongs to somebody from an older generation.

To our great grandparents, the nickname would have been "Pepe." But the owner is younger. The nickname, the caller said, should therefore be "Joe." I stand corrected.

***

ANYWAY, according to rumors making the rounds of boardrooms in Makati, the account of, ahh, Joe "V" is already running up to several billions of pesos.

The great mystery to business is this: How could the real person behind it, whoever he, she, it or they may be, amass that much money in only a short time.

And so they say that a government agency, out of the hundreds we pay for with our hard-earned taxes, should perhaps check on the rumors even just out of curiosity.

I agree we have a detective for hidden wealth. It's the PCGG. Still, if this PCGG does anything with the account, it is guilty of incest. Or perhaps even cannibalism!

***

THOSE in business, or those who are agitating for an investigation of the account, at the very least, should rethink their position. They are just being bitter.

Don't you see, it is such an uncivilized offensive practice, we don't do any of that anymore. Things have changed under this cute administration of Gloriaetta.

Today, with our strong republic and all that, you just don't devour or f...— well, whatever it is—your own kind. Those days are gone.

I think that the best way to handle those rumors about that huge account is to let sleeping lazy dogs just lie on their big fat...

***

BESIDES, the public is totally aware of how busy the PCGG is, particularly now that it is close to getting some $683 million of the alleged Marcos loot from Switzerland.

Or the amount could be $708 million. Or it could also be $681,984,323.83 only. It depends on the precision of the calculator they are using. Maybe it is made in China.

Still standing after 17 years of being too busy for incest or cannibalism, anyway, the PCGG is busy nowadays with a couple of ... well, its 17-year-old cases.

And so those bitter guys in business, calling for a PCGG investigation of the Joe "V" account, should consider that the PCGG has other priorities. End of conversation!

***

ONE priority of the PCGG is the bankrupt United Coconut Planters Bank, the so-called Cocobank, which the PCGG ran in 15 years out of the past 17 years.

The Bangko Sentral and the PDIC are also busy trying to save the bank from the PCGG, *este*, from collapsing *pala*, as they try out a P20- to P40- billion bail-out program.

It is going to cost us, taxpayers, meaning, you and me again, that much money to save a bank which the PCGG sequestered and ran by itself for 15 years.

And to think that we have not gotten a single centavo out of the hard work of the PCGG in taking over the bank as yet. What more can we ask for, really?

***

THUS, I say that the public must support the PCGG, as it avoids an accounting of Cocobank, plus any semblance of responsibility and accountability.

Those things, after all, at least when you talk of normal business practice, are usually connected to the management of even just a *carinderia*.

To think, this Eduardo Cojuangco Jr., or more appropriately his lawyer, former Solicitor General Estelito Mendoza, even asks the PCGG for an accounting of Cocobank!

Danding may claim 7-percent ownership of the bank, but so what? Owners of businesses taken over by the PCGG have no right under this cute administration.

***

NOT only that, in retaliation to the nerve of this Danding to beg the PCGG for his right, the PCGG told him to provide the, ahh, "accounting" himself. That's the way to go!

In 1986, you see, when the Marcos dictatorship was sent on an outing to Hawaii, Danding claims that he left a financially healthy Cocobank.

In only a few years, from 1992 to 1998, under the care of the PCGG, the bank was able to parlay itself to an institution needing a P20- to P40-billion rehabilitation program.

Since Danding had no hand whatsoever in running the bank during the time it collapsed, the PCGG is correct in asking Danding to do all the accounting. Clear enough!

***

THIS ingrate Danding should even thank the PCGG for the collapse of Cocobank, instead of asking the PCGG questions like what had happened.

Because, as one of the owners of a bank in which he has no right whatsoever, Danding will likely be held responsible by the depositing public.

The bank lost the depositors' money. Danding claims part ownership of the bank. The rule in banking is, the owners are the ones always responsible.

But he had nothing to do with its management. Thanks to the PCGG, Danding can enjoy the public lynching with a clear conscience.

***

FOR Danding to now give an accounting, which the PCGG is telling him to do, is like an admission that, indeed, he is still an owner.

Earlier, however, in answer to Danding's call for an accounting, the PCGG said that Danding no longer has the legal personality to do that.

The Sandiganbayan, the PCGG argued, already ruled that the bank belonged to the government.

It does not matter to the PCGG that Danding is appealing the same ruling. To the PCGG, he already lost his right as a stockholder of the bank.

***

ALL those conflicting statements from the PCGG, to me, have only one explanation. They are trying to hide something. It is nothing but a grand scale cover-up.

What happened in Cocobank, for all we know, also happened and is still happening in other companies under the care of the PCGG.

The PCGG does not investigate such foolishness. Its only purpose in life is to run after those people who the PCGG bigshots do not like.

The PCGG cannot investigate its own people. If this happens, who will investigate the PCGG investigators who investigate the PCGG appointees?

FIRST 6 MONTHS

Ayala Corp. profit hits ₱1.38B

By Elena R. Torrijos

AYALA Corp., the flagship holding company of the Ayala family, yesterday reported a net profit of P1.38 billion for the first six months of 2003.

While this was down 45 percent from P2.54 billion in the same period last year, it was on account of strong non-recurring income posted by Ayala in 2002.

Compared to recurring profit in the first half of last year, the P1.38 billion was double the P700 million figure and was traced to strong equity earnings from Globe Telecom, one of two leading mobile phone service providers in the country, and steady profits from property arm Ayala Land Inc. and Bank of the Philippine Islands.

"We had a very good financial performance because of Globe Telecoms and Ayala Land and BPI (first-half results) came in within expectations," Ayala Corp. managing director Rufino Luis Manotok noted.

Earlier, Globe reported P4.4 billion in net profit in the first half of this year, up 42 percent. ALI posted a 3-percent increase in profit to P1.1 billion in the reference period while BPI posted practically no change in profit at P2.6 billion.

Out of Ayala Corp.'s equity in net earnings of its subsidiaries, Globe accounted for 45 percent with BPI and ALI contributing 22 percent each.

In a statement, Ayala Corp. disclosed that its main operating companies under AC Capital delivered solid results in the first half. Manila Water Co. doubled its profit to P620 million, Integrated Microelectronics Inc. brought up its profit by 48 percent to P280 million while Ayala Automotive Holdings achieved a 53-percent rise in profit to P245 million.

"The significant improvement in our recurring profitability highlights some very positive trends. Ayala's key businesses are all performing strongly despite continued difficulties in the operating environment and this underscores the importance of the investments we have made in consolidating and strengthening our competitive positions in these industries," Ayala Corp. executive managing director Fernando Zobel de Ayala said.

Manotok said Ayala Corp. expected to post better profit this year compared to the P2.39 billion recorded in 2002.

RP debt yields flat on security concerns

PHILIPPINE debt yields were flat yesterday as investors worried about the security situation after this week's deadly bombing in Jakarta and the failed mutiny by more than 300 elite soldiers in Manila on July 27.

Traders said successful transactions were few and far between as players waited for firmer leads on how the government will resolve issues related to what it is now being called an abortive coup.

"The market is quiet but bids are now more reasonable," a trader said. "In the past two sessions, bids have dropped by over 50 basis points as the Treasury rejected all offers at the two auctions early this week."

The trader said 1.5-year paper, the residual term of longer-dated tenors, was bought at 8.875 percent. *Reuters*

Beyond . . .

From page B1

dragged into something that could bring it more harm than good in the longer term.

"We're looking at certain conditions, that we won't be put in a bad light (if we join the consortium). Their debts are a major issue. If we come together and we're still enslaved by the banks, (Destiny) will be dragged down," he said.

But Lopez said Beyond Cable was already just waiting for its creditor-banks' approval of its final debt-restructuring proposal submitted last week.

Lopez expressed confidence that a restructuring agreement would be signed soon and that talks with Destiny Cable could take off in a more concrete manner after that. *Abigail L. Ho*

ADB, IFC assistance seen in easing banks' bad loans

By Clarissa S. Batino

MULTILATERAL agencies Asian Development Bank and the International Finance Corp. are in talks with asset management companies and banks to help facilitate the sale of the banking sector's more than P400 billion in non-performing loans and assets.

"ADB and IFC are discussing with some AMCs and banks to help bridge the pricing gap that has hindered the sale of these NPLs. In principle, I think both are willing to come up with a structure that would be more acceptable to the AMCs and the banks," said Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas Governor Rafael Buenaventura.

Buenaventura explained that since the ADB and the IFC aspire for a more reasonable rate of return, they could devise a formula with the AMCs to increase the price being offered to banks for the purchase of the bad loans and seized assets.

"Or they could talk directly with the bank and offer a funding mechanism to help the banks cope with the losses of selling their NPLs at a discount," the BSP chief added.

Special purpose vehicles are asking banks to sell their bad loans and assets at a 70-80 percent discount. Banks, on the other hand, avoid taking losses and have been trying to sell the NPLs at a rate inversely proportionate to the offer of the AMCs.

"Banks have to realize that there has to be a certain pain-sharing. Some banks are still in denial," said Buenaventura.

When prodded to elaborate, the BSP chief noted that carrying huge NPLs in their books would drain their capital and affect their profitability.

It had been seven months since the Special Purpose Vehicle Act was passed and signed into law but there has been no significant reduction in the banking sector's bad loans. The law offering tax incentives to NPL takeouts would expire in January 2005.

As of May, the bad loans of the country's more than 40 commercial banks stood at 15.41 percent of total loans or P257 billion under a looser definition implemented starting September 2002.

Non-performing assets, which combine the bad loans and the acquired assets, stood at P446.3 billion as of May. The looser definition of NPLs took out more than P20 billion in soured accounts that have been fully written off by banks.

"At an NPL ratio of 15 to 20 percent, banks believe they can still survive. They are not yet desperate unlike what happened to Thailand when NPLs rose to 40 percent. But the idea is not just to survive but to be successful," Buenaventura said.

Bad loans or NPLs are accounts whose principal or interest remained unpaid for 90 straight days.

Banks' NPLs peaked to 18.81 percent in October 2001 from a single-digit level before the 1997 Asian crisis. Since then, banks have to contend with a growing portfolio of soured accounts.

Loan quality of banks worsened in 2000 when NPLs started hitting 15 percent and worsening to 16.26 percent later that year.

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of Aug. 8, 2003)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	17.75	18.25	17.75	18.25	179,400
Bank of the Phil. Islands	46	48	46	48	1,334,700
China Banking Corp.	660	660	660	660	100
Chinatrust Comm. Bank	19	19	19	19	200
Citystate Savings Bank	15.25	15.25	15.25	15.25	2,000
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	34	34	34	34	620,500
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	29.5	30	29.5	30	188,300
Prudential Bank	300	302.5	300	300	171,640
Philippine National Bank	24.75	24.75	24.5	24.75	53,200
Security Bank Corp.	18	18	18	18	85,800
Union Bank of the Phil.	23.25	23.5	23.25	23.5	128,000
FINANCIAL SERVICES					
Manulife Financial Corp.	1575	1590	1575	1590	1,230
PCI Leasing & Fin. Inc.	1.24	1.24	1.24	1.24	106,000
Sun Life Financial Inc.	1130	1145	1130	1145	3,920
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	20	20	20	20	18,500
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	0.65	0.65	0.65	0.65	1,220,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	630	645	630	645	40,840
Island Info and Tech Inc.	0.0575	0.0575	0.0575	0.0575	6,100,000
ISM Communications Corp.	0.046	0.0525	0.046	0.0525	127,900,000
Manila Bulletin Pub. Corp.	3.1	3.15	3.1	3.15	11,000
Pilipino Tel. Corp.	0.52	0.54	0.52	0.54	3,150,000
Phil. Telegraph & Tel. Co	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	200,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	500	515	497.5	510	179,820
Philweb Corp.	0.013	0.014	0.013	0.014	10,500,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	11.25	12	11.25	12	951,100
Manila Electric Co. B	17.25	18.25	17.25	18.25	2,746,300
Petron Corp.	2	2.02	1.98	2.02	3,428,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	2.8	2.8	2.75	2.75	103,000
Lorenzo Shipping Corp.	0.27	0.27	0.27	0.27	20,000
William,Gothong & Aboitiz	2.6	2.8	2.6	2.8	13,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Engineering Equip. Inc.	0.36	0.36	0.36	0.36	20,000
Republic Glass Hldg. Corp.	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.6	368,000
Union Cement Corp.	0.83	0.83	0.83	0.83	70,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	2.8	2.8	2.75	2.8	15,000
Ginebra San Miguel Inc.	28.5	29	28.5	29	27,900
Jollibee Foods Corp.	17.5	17.5	17.5	17.5	12,200
RFM Corp.	0.75	0.75	0.74	0.74	220,000
San Miguel Corp. A	51.5	52	51.5	52	60,100
San Miguel Corp. B	62	62	61	62	136,500
Vitarich Corp.	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	730,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.36	0.39	0.36	0.39	160,000
Abacus Con Res & Hdg B	0.39	0.39	0.39	0.39	200,000
Ayala Corp.	4.4	4.55	4.4	4.55	4,266,000
Alsons Cons. Res. Inc.	0.21	0.21	0.21	0.21	100,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	2.6	2.6	2.6	2.6	228,000
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc.	0.037	0.039	0.037	0.039	4,600,000
APC Group Inc.	0.1	0.1	0.095	0.095	200,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.0075	0.0075	0.0075	0.0075	21,000,000
ATN Holdings Inc.	1.66	1.76	1.64	1.74	322,000
Bacnotan Cons Indus Inc.	9.4	9.4	9.4	9.4	21,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	0.64	0.67	0.62	0.64	26,670,000
Basic Consolidated Inc.	0.15	0.15	0.15	0.15	1,900,000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.185	0.195	0.185	0.19	570,000
Southeast Asian Cement	0.1	0.115	0.1	0.105	1,910,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	0.32	0.32	0.3	0.31	2,250,000
Ever-Gotesco Resources	0.043	0.0575	0.043	0.05	16,300,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	15.5	16	15.5	16	903,900
Forum Pacific Inc.	0.26	0.26	0.24	0.24	40,000
Global Equities Inc.	0.135	0.135	0.13	0.13	1,250,000
Ionics Inc.	1.48	1.48	1.46	1.48	160,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	1.78	1.78	1.78	1.78	17,000
Megaworld Corp.	0.73	0.73	0.73	0.73	190,000
Mabuhay Holdings Corp.	0.13	0.15	0.13	0.15	40,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.27	0.28	0.26	0.26	3,550,000
Music Corp.	0.39	0.39	0.38	0.38	710,000
Prime Orion Phils. Inc.	0.28	0.32	0.28	0.28	23,830,000
East Asia Power Res. Corp.	0.17	0.17	0.16	0.16	900,000
Roxas Holdings Inc.	1	1	1	1	1,640,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.12	0.15	0.12	0.12	22,450,000
Wellex Industries Inc.	0.5	0.54	0.5	0.54	190,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.39	0.39	0.39	0.39	1,480,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Metro Alliance Holdings	0.9	1	0.9	1	240,000
Metro Alliance Hldgs B	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	20,000
Picop Resources Inc.	0.09	0.1	0.09	0.1	8,300,000
Spi Technologies Inc.	16.25	16.25	16.25	16.25	80,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICES					
Belle Corp.	0.54	0.56	0.54	0.56	2,970,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr)	20.25	20.25	20	20	46,200
ATR Fin. Corp. - Warrants	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	10,000,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series S	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	800
PLDT (10% Pref.) Series U	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	1,600
OTHERS					
FAR EASTERN UNIVERSITY	60	460	460	460	60
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	6.4	6.4	6.4	6.4	3,287,000
C & P Homes Inc.	0.22	0.22	0.22	0.22	1,110,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.225	0.23	0.21	0.21	7,470,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.23	0.24	0.23	0.24	980,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	0.96	1	0.96	0.98	3,160,000
Kuok Phil. Properties	0.24	0.24	0.215	0.215	7,170,000
MRC Allied Ind. Inc.	0.165	0.175	0.16	0.175	820,000
SM Development Corp.	1.14	1.14	1.14	1.14	1,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	5.8	5.9	5.8	5.9	2,196,000
MINING					
Apex Mining Co. Inc. B	0.19	0.2	0.19	0.2	100,000
Abra Mining & Industrial	0.0036	0.0036	0.0036	0.0036	10,000,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.18	0.19	0.18	0.185	1,150,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co B	0.195	0.205	0.195	0.2	620,000
Omico Corp.	0.0034	0.0034	0.0034	0.0034	45,000,000
Polar Mines & Dev't Corp.	0.018	0.018	0.018	0.018	1,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	310,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	0.27	0.27	0.27	0.27	40,000
OIL					
Imperial Res.	0.013	0.015	0.013	0.015	16,200,000
Interport Res.	0.004	0.004	0.004	0.004	13,000,000
Interport Res. B	0.004	0.004	0.004	0.004	2,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.0034	0.0034	0.0034	0.0034	20,000,000
Pacifica	0.011	0.012	0.011	0.012	42,000,000
Sinophil Corp.	0.035	0.036	0.035	0.036	2,000,000

	SHARES	VALUE(P)
Bank & Fin Svc	2,874,990	157,402,815.00
Comm'l & Ind'l	319,947,820	287,210,055.00
PRO	26,194,000	40,977,540.00
Mining	58,220,000	652,450.00
OIL	95,200,000	912,600.00
GRAND TOTALS :	502,436,810	487,155,460.00
	AVERAGES	
Bank & Fin Svc	454.19	UP 13.73
Comm'l & Ind'l	1,748.49	UP 33.69
PRO	561.69	UP 4.91
Mining	1,169.82	DOWN 24.08
OIL	1.41	UNCH 0.00
SME	100.00	UNCH 0.00
All Shares Index	768.71	UP 6.43
Composite	1,232.88	UP 25.63

NO. OF ADVANCES: 55; NO. OF DECLINES: 13; NO. OF UNCHANGED: 36; NO. OF TRADED ISSUES: 104; NO. OF TRADES: 2,626

DISCLOSURES

FEDERAL Chemicals Inc. has designated Ruben Mendoza, vice president for sales, as chief compliance officer.

***

UNITED Paragon Mining Corp. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on Sept. 15, 10 a.m. at the 9/F of Quad Alpha Centrum, Mandaluyong City.

***

BANCO de Oro Universal Bank signed a memorandum of agreement with Sta. Lucia Realty and Development Inc. for the development of the bank's 127.1-hectare property in General Trias Cavite.

***

MAGNUM Holdings Inc. moved its annual stockholders' meeting from Aug. 15 to Sept. 4 with record date on Aug. 29.

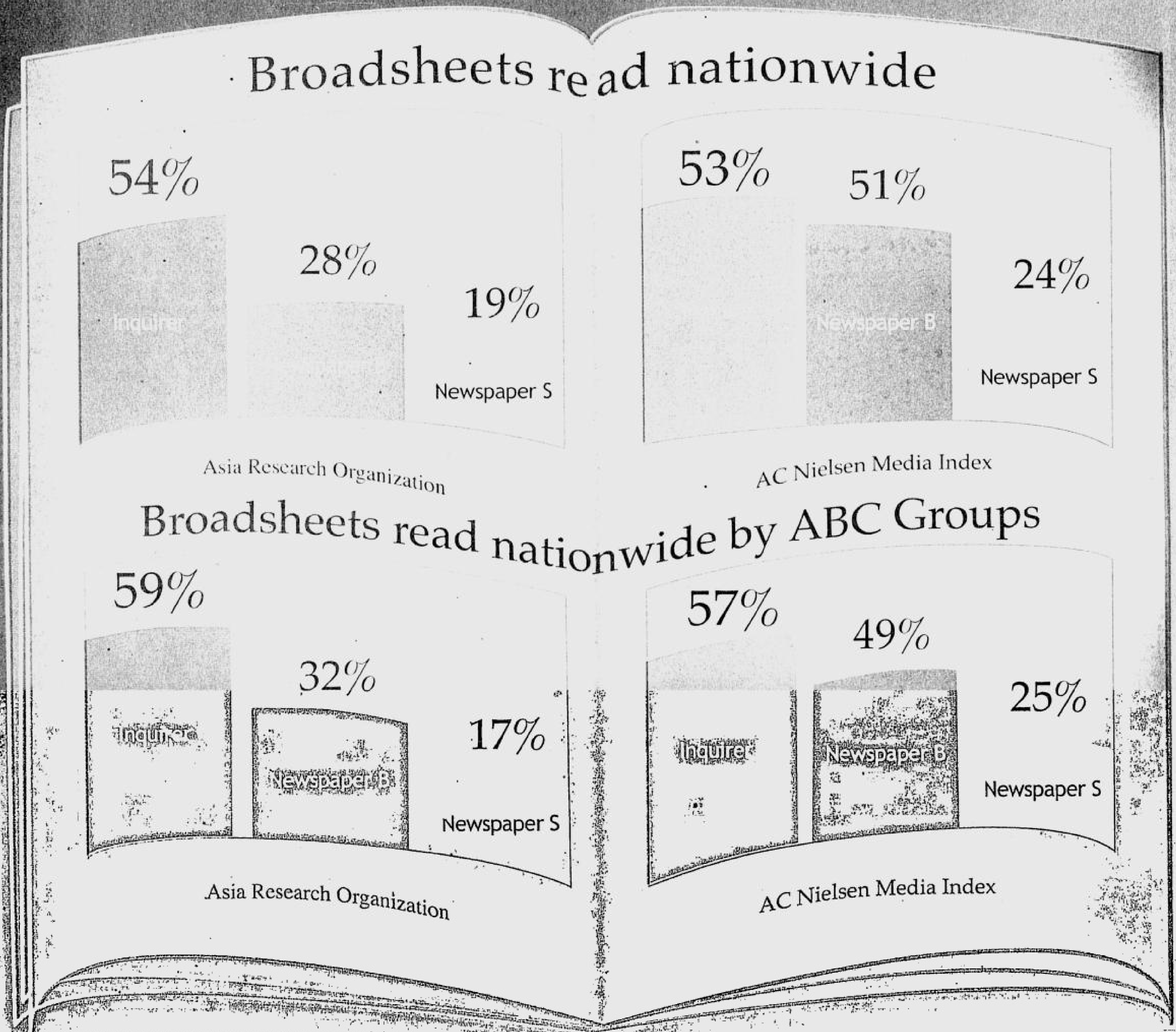
***

MUSIC Corp. disclosed the appointment of Andrew Alcid as the third independent director of the company.

***

GERARDO De Leon was hired as compliance officer of Citystate Savings Bank Inc. ***Compiled by Maricar D. Tolosa, PDI Research***

Different surveys.* Same result.



*[illegible] survey conducted by ARO and AC Nielsen in 2002

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P1000/TRIP 742-14-57

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HOUSE & LOT

KALOOCAN

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MAKATI

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2STY 2BR 2TB/GAR. 8908681

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CAVITE

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Alabang Furn owner leaving 0919-6470802 7721351

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MANILA

NR LA SALLE TAFT
BnewTwnhse/3stry/3br/3tb/grge P3.295M 8903461 loc 34

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

HOUSE & LOT

RIZAL

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

HOUSE & LOT

RIZAL

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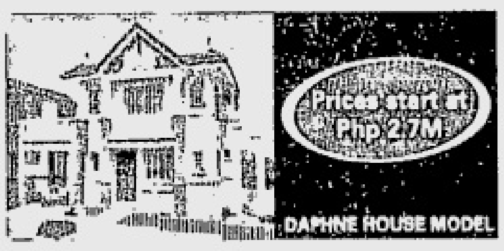

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CAVITE

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MERVILLE STUDIO 842-8315

QUEZON CITY

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5 D.Tuazon cor Ilustre St P8T 9207101•0919-3652573

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PUBLIC NOTICES

ANNOUNCEMENT

CAREGIVER TRNG 5271590

NOTICE OF LOSS

Cash AWB & Proforma AWB - ABOITIZ ONE, INC w/series # A0582519A; C00840848; C00840958; C00841158, C00842328; C0842508; C00842958; C05208018 to C05208508 Transaction entered using above series will not be honored by the Company

Notice is hereby given on the loss of S2 ID#13044R00-3027 of Joselyn N. Villanueva M.D. (PDI-Aug 9, 2003)

Notice is hereby given of the loss of Petron Corp Stock Cert. # 854471 1261371, 1465416 w/ 3000 shrs and 71066; 741278; 1249406; 146547 w/3000 shrs under the name of Carlos B. Andres. If no contest rec'd on or bef Aug. 9, 2003 new stock cert. will be issued & transferred to Maria Elizabeth Andres Palencia, legal & sole heir of Carlos B. Andres.
(PDI-July 26, Aug. 2, & 9 2003)

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INVITATION FOR BIDS

Loan No. : 1654-PHI: Secondary Education Development and Improvement Project (SEDIP)
IFB No. : ADB-OE-SEDIP-2003

1. The Republic of the Philippines through the Department of Education (DepEd) has received a loan from the Asian Development Bank (ADB) towards financing the cost of the Secondary Education Development and Improvement Project (SEDIP). It is intended that part of the proceeds of this loan will be applied to eligible payments under the contract for Supply and Delivery of Various Office Equipment.
2. The DepEd through the Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for the Supply and Delivery of Various Office Equipment.
3. The mode of procurement shall be through Local Competitive Bidding (LCB). A bidder may opt to bid on any or all items required.
4. Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information on the bid form and inspect the bidding documents from the BAC Office, Ground Floor, Mabini Bldg., DepEd Complex, Meralco Avenue, Pasig City, Tel. #6321361 loc. 2019.
5. A complete set of bidding documents may be purchased by interested bidders starting August 4, 2003 upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Three Hundred Pesos Only (P300.00).
6. All bids must be accompanied by a bid security of not less than two percent (2%) of the total bid amount and must be delivered in accordance with the instructions to Bidders on or before 10:00 a.m. on September 5, 2003 and will be publicly opened immediately thereafter at the Bulwagan ng Karunungan, Rizal I Building, DepEd Complex, Meralco Avenue, Pasig City, Philippines.
7. Prior to the bid opening, a pre-bid conference will be held on August 20, 2003 at the same time and address as indicated in paragraph 6
8. The DepEd reserves the right to accept and reject any or all bids and to annul the bidding process at any time prior to award of Contract without incurring any liability to the affected bidders and to waive any minor informality or non-conformity in a bid which does not constitute a material deviation, provided such waiver will not prejudice or affect competitive ranking or any bid.

(Sgd.) USEC JUAN MIGUEL M. LUZ
Chairperson
Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI-Aug. 2 & 9, 2003)

USAID

DISPOSAL SALE

USAID/Manila will conduct a Sealed Bid Sale of used residential and office furniture/equipment, appliances, IBM/Reduced Instruction Set Computer (RISC) system 6000 R-20 LAN, Sharp Xerox Machines, UPS batteries and assorted automotive parts & supplies on as "AS IS-WHERE-IS" basis.

All items can be inspected on August 11 - 13, 2003 from 8:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. at USAID Warehouse, 2345 Aurora Blvd., (formerly Tramo St.) Pasay City. Bid forms are available at the site. Submission of bids and cash deposits (20% of the total bid) can be done at the site during the sale. Full payment and bid deposit refunds will be on August 18, 2003 at 8:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. at the USAID/Cashier, 8th Floor, PNB Financial Center, Roxas Blvd., Pasay City.

For further information, please call Mr. Romy Arquisola or Mr. Allan Daluz at Tel. Nos. 831-2271, 514-4229, 514-4234 and 514-4236.

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
SUGAR REGULATORY ADMINISTRATION
North Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City
P.O. Box 70 U.P. Diliman, Quezon City
TIN 0000-784-336

INVITATION TO BID

Interested parties are invited to pre-qualify and bid fc

CONTRACT FOR JANITORIAL SERVICES
Approved Budget : Php1,950,000.00

Only pre-qualified bidders shall be allowed to participate in the Public Bidding to be held o September 22, 2003 at the SRA Social Hall of the Sugar Regulatory Administration, North Avenue Diliman, Quezon City at 10:00 a m

Prequalification forms may be secured from the Secretariat, 3rd Floor, SRA Annex Building of the same address starting August 11 and the deadline for submission of said requirements shall be on August 21, 2003.

The list of qualified bidders shall be released [illegible] ugust [illegible] hereafter, bid forms shall be issued for a non-refundable cost of Php500 00/set.

A pre-bid conference shall be held on Septemb [illegible] at the SRA Social Hall at 10:00 a m

For inquiries, please call
The Bidding Secretariat - Telephone N [illegible]

The SRA reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any formalities or defect therein and to accept any or all offers that may be considered most advantageous to the SRA.

(Sgd.) JAMES C. LEDESMA
Administrator

Note: This cancels previou [illegible] *14, 2003.*

(PDI - Aug 9 & 16, 2003)

CARS FOR SALE

1. Car Nissan
Make Cefiro (Infinity Look)
Model 1997
Color Black
Mileage 24,594 km.
P520,000.00

2. Car Chevrolet
Make Silverado 4 WD
Model 2000
Color Black
Mileage 17,079 km.
P780,000.00

3 Car Ford
Make Explorer 4WD
Model 2001
Color Green
Mileage 10,000 km.
P1,080,000.00

Contact person:
Jeannette Cabalu
Telephone No. 925-7104
or 925-6716
Cellphone No. 0917-8490089

NO JOBS IN IRAQ YET
Call POEA at 722-1144 or 722-1155

For IMMEDIATE HIRING

Assistant Sales Personnel

A fast-growing French cosmetics company located in Makati, is in need of a competent and reliable Sales Personnel, who would be able to:

- Generate new sales targets/hits for the company
- Speak publicly and perform training modules for clients

Requirements:

- Female, 23 to 30 years old
- Willing to learn about the innovative products of our company and to sell them confidently
- Develop new marketing strategies to promote our products
- Willing to work on Saturdays
- Proficient in English
- Organized and computer-literate
- A graduate of a reputable college/university

Past experience in sales and in spa operations preferred. Forward resumés and 2x2 photograph to:

MOANA INTERNATIONAL CORP.
4/F F. Jacinto House
116 Rada Street, Legaspi Village, Makati City
Tel. No. 812-7197 / Fax No. 812-7461

ACCOUNTING PERSONNEL

- Female, not more than 23 years old
- Accounting graduate, preferably a CPA
- Honest, precise and can work well under pressure

Please send your resumé with 2 x 2 ID picture by mail or email to:

MAIL: Sandigan Ship Services, Inc.
Suite 1107A-1109 Ermita Center Building
1350 Roxas Boulevard, Ermita, Manila
EMAIL: golda@sandigan.com.ph

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7TH FLOOR LEGASPI TOWERS 200, PASEO DE ROXAS,
CITY OF MAKATI, METRO MANILA
TELEPHONE NUMBERS 817-47-11 • 817-47-12 • 817-47-13
817-5017 • 817-5018 • 817-5014 • 813-1441/46
FAX (632) 814-2662 • 815-2660 • 817-3127
ZIP CODE 1226

INVITATION FOR RE-BIDDING HEALTH CARE SERVICES FOR ALL QUALIFIED OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE PUBLIC ESTATES AUTHORITY AND THEIR DEPENDENTS

PEA is inviting health maintenance offices to submit pre-qualification documents for the re-bidding of the health care services for all qualified officers and employees of PEA and their dependents, under the same terms and conditions of the 1st bidding. Pre-qualified bidders are automatically considered to participate in this rebidding.

Interested parties may acquire pre-qualification forms from the Office of the Chairman of the BAC, 8th Floor, Legaspi Towers 200, Paseo de Roxas, Makati City from August 11 to 18, 2003 upon payment of a non-refundable fee of P100.00.

The duly accomplished pre-qualification documents must be received on or before 5:00 p.m., 20 August 2003 at the Office of the Chairman of the BAC, 8th Floor, Legaspi Towers 200, Paseo de Roxas, Makati City.

The approved budget cost for the health care services is P1,880,000.00, chargeable against the PEA Personnel Services Benefits fund. The contract for health care services shall be for a period of one (1) year.

Pre-bid conference shall be held on August 25, 2003 at 2:00 p.m. at the PEA Conference Room. Deadline of submission of bids will be on August 29, 2003 at 10:00 a.m., and the opening of bids will be at 2:00 p.m. of the same day.

Insurance Brokers/Agents and Disqualified HMOs in the 1st prequalification will not be entertained in this re-bidding

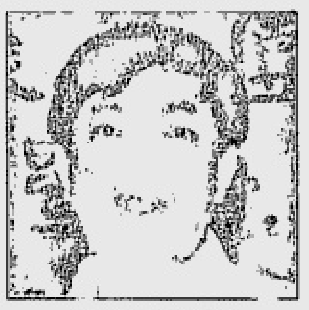
The PEA reserves the right to reject any or all bids without offering any reason, waive any formality or technicality and to award to the bidder whose proposal is deemed most advantageous to the government

(Sgd.) ARMINDA A. ALARAS
Chairman, BAC

Approved.
(Sgd.) TEODORICO C. TAGUINOD
General Manager/CEO

(PDI – August 9 & 16, 2003)

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC



Billy Lee

Notice is hereby given that a warrant of arrest has been issued by the Regional Trial Court of Caloocan, Br 128 against **Billy Lee** of **Estafa** under Art.315(2) of the Revised Penal Code pending under Criminal Case No. 64545.

Any information regarding his whereabouts maybe given to Tel. No. **921-0930.**

(PDI - Aug. 9, 2003)

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
SECURITIES & EXCHANGE COMMISSION
SEC Building, EDSA, Greenhills
City of Mandaluyong, Metro Manila

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Securities and Exchange Commission invites bonafide bidders to apply for eligibility and to bid for the **Canteen Concessionaire at SEC Main Office, Greenhills, Mandaluyong City.**

Bid documents may be secured at the General Services Division, 4th floor, SEC Building, EDSA, Greenhills, Mandaluyong City upon payment of non-refundable fee of **P500.00.** For further inquiries please call at Tel. no. 727-3320.

Pre-Bid conference will be held on:

Date	**August 14, 2003**
Time	10:00 A.M.
Place	MRD Conference Room, 6th floor, SEC Building

Eligible Bidders shall submit their bids in two (2) separate sealed envelopes, the first containing the Eligibility Requirements and the other containing the bid form and proposed design/plan for the canteen. All documents originating from other government agencies should be **Authenticated/Certified True Copies**

The envelopes must be sealed, properly labeled, signed or stamped across the envelope flap.

Deadline for submission of bids will be on:

Date	**August 29, 2003**
Time	5:00 PM
Place	General Services Division, 4th floor, SEC Building
To Whom	Mr. Norlan M. De las Alas, BAC Secretariat

Bid submitted after said date/time will no longer accepted

Bid Security in the form of Cash, Cashier's/Manager's Check, Bank guarantee or Surety bond shall accompany the sealed bids. Otherwise, the bid is automatically disqualified

All particular relative to Eligibility, Bid Bond, Pre-Bid Conference, Bid Evaluation, Post qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the provision of Republic Act No. 9184, and/or Implementing Rules and Regulations of Executive Order No. 40, Series of 2001.

The SEC reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive any required formalities therein and to award the contract to the bidder whose proposals as evaluated is most advantageous to the Commission

SEC also assumes no obligation whatsoever to compensate or indemnify the bidder for any expense or loss that may be incurred in the preparation of the bids, nor does it guarantee that any award will be made.

(Sgd.) JOSE AQUINO
Chairman
Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI-- Aug 2 & 9, 2003)

National Power Corporation

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The National Power Corporation (NPC) of the Republic of the Philippines invites all interested contractors to register and apply for eligibility and to bid for the Dingle Diesel Power Project II (Transfer of 110MW Pinamucan Diesel Power Plant, Pinamucan, Batangas to Dingle, Panay Island).

The works to be completed by the successful bidder shall consist of, but not limited to, disassembling/dismantling, hauling, transportation, erection/installation of 4x12.94MW and 4x14.63MW diesel gensets including supply of miscellaneous electro-mechanical equipment, construction of powerhouse, control house, equipment foundations, intrasite road networks, fuel oil tanks farm and test and commissioning.

The complete set of eligibility documents are available for issuance at the Bids and Contracts Services Department, Ground Floor, Building No. 1, National Power Corporation, Agham Road corner Quezon Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City 1104 with Tel. No. 924-5211 and Telefax No. 922-1622, upon presentation of Certificate of Official Registration, Letter of Intent and Contractor's License. Interested contractors may conduct preliminary site inspection with prior written notification to the Chairman of the Contracts Award Committee (CAC).

The bidding requirements and schedule of activities are as follows:

Contract Number	Sp03.TPDPP Vc-0368	
Approved Budget for the Contract	P535,000,000.00	
Contractor's License and Registration Particulars Issued By the PCAB	Category AAA Large B - Specialty:	Foundation, Mechanical and Electrical Works
Issuance of Registration and Eligibility Requirements/Documents	August 11, 2003	
Deadline for submission of Eligibility Requirements/Documents	August 29, 2003	
Issuance of Tender Documents	September 1, 2003	
Site Inspection at Pinamucan	September 1-5, 2003	
Site Inspection at Dingle	September 1-5, 2003	
Pre-bid Conference	September 8, 2003	
Submission and Opening of Bids	October 6, 2003	
Contract Duration	Three Hundred (300) calendar days	
Cost of Eligibility Documents	P1,000.00 (Non-refundable)	
Cost of Tender/Bid Documents	P10,000.00 (Non-refundable)	

Eligibility of registered prospective bidders shall be evaluated based on non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria prescribed in the eligibility guidelines.

Tender/bid documents shall be issued only to eligible bidders upon payment thereof

The CAC, NPC, reserves the right to accept or reject any bid, and to cancel the bidding process and reject all bids, at any time prior to award of contract, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder(s) or any obligation to inform the affected bidder(s) of the ground(s) for NPC's action

(Sgd.) SILVANO C. ZANORIA
SVP ME & TMS and
Chairman, Contracts Award Committee

(PDI - Aug 9 & 10, 2003)

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

Notice is hereby given to the public that the following are the Directors/Officers of **AVANTGARDE SHIPPING CORPORATION** as of July 28, 2003.

MA. MARGARET GOLDA GARA REBAMONTAN
Chairperson
MIKE EDZEL GARA REBAMONTAN
Vice Chairman/Treasurer
TEODORA GARA PASCUAL - President/CEO
CAPT. ELEAZAR G. DIAZ - Managing Director
PAUL L. BAGALAY - Chief Operating Officer

This publication is being made in compliance with Section 12, Rule II, Part II of the new POEA Rules and Regulations Governing the Recruitment and Employment of Seafarers.

CASCADE

Department of Agriculture
CARABALLO & SOUTHERN CORDILLERA
AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME
A PROGRAMME FOR SELF-RELIANCE
Bayombong 3700, Nueva Vizcaya
Fax: +6378 8053611 Tel: +6378 3214128/2605/2719
Email: cascade_erp@yahoo.co.uk

INVITATION TO PREQUALIFY

Interested companies are invited to submit Letter of Interest to supply and deliver on-site Second Hand (reconditioned) Roadway Equipment for twelve (12) Municipalities of Nueva Vizcaya and two (2) Municipalities of Benguet of at least 27 units of a combination of the following:

- Bulldozer, Road Grader, Roller, Excavator cum Loader, Dump Truck, Wheel Loader (articulated).

Letter of Interest must include:

- Company profile;
- List of previous clients indicating number and type of equipment supplied;
- Copy of audited Financial Statements for the past two (2) years, and
- List of inventory of roadway equipment on stock, indicating year model.

Letter of interest must be submitted on or before 01 September 2003, to the address below:

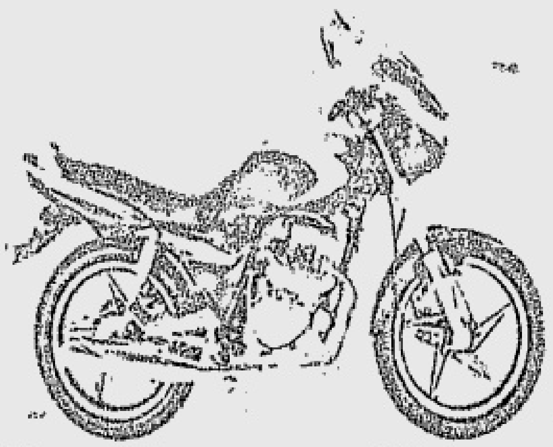
The Project Directors
DA-CASCADE
Bonfal West, Bayombong
3700 Nueva Vizcaya

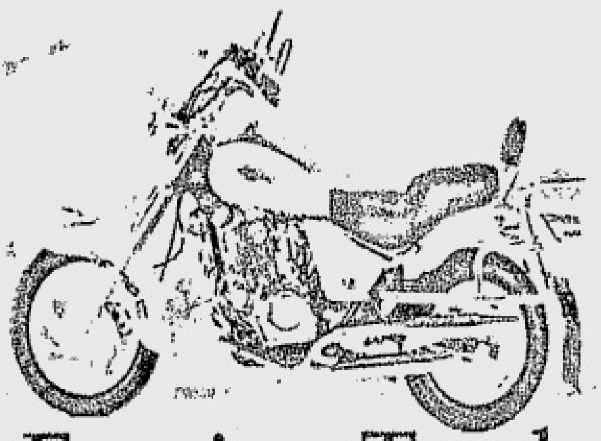
(PDI - Aug 9 & 10 2003)

★2003★CHINA★ CHONGQING ★TRADE★EXPO

PHILIPPINES

INQUIRER





Business Opportunities in Foreign Trade

AUGUST 14-17, 2003 WORLD TRADE CENTER, MANILA, PHILIPPINES

FREE ENTRANCE

CHONGQING in one of China's biggest municipalities and one of the largest cities in the world. It is the economic center, the hub of water, land and air transport in Southwest China. With world markets opening up for free trade, Chongqing's environment for investment has been further improved and this broad land is offering full opportunities for international business and trade.

EXHIBIT PROFILE. Being the largest vehicle and motorcycle base in China, the China Chongqing Expo will feature the motorcycle, electric bikes, automotive, engine, and spare parts industry. However, other industries also featured in the expo include the following: textile, fabrics, electronics, generators, pumps, agricultural machinery, car accessories & many others

VISITOR PROFILE. Invited to the show are Investors, Entrepreneurs, Motorcycle and Automotive Enthusiasts, Dealers and Distributors, Decision Makers, Relevant Organizations, Relevant Government Agencies, and the General Public.

TRADE OBJECTIVES. To foster closer economic ties between China and the Philippines through a showcase of the various business opportunities available in Chongqing.

SUPPORTED BY: Office of the President of the Philippines * Office of the Vice President of the Philippines * Senate of the Philippines * Department of Trade and Industry * Department of Transportation and Communication * Federation of Filipino-Chinese Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Inc. * Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry * Luzon Motorcyclists Federation, Inc.

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Tel. 4364711/12, 9297963/93
Email : info@PEPGroup.com

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Agriculture
Philippine Rice Research Institute
Maligaya, Science City of Muñoz, Nueva Ecija

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Philippine Rice Research Institute (PhilRice), invites parties/contractors duly registered with CIAP to apply for eligibility and if found eligible to bid for the contracts of:

Project Description & Approved Budget	CIAP Category & License Classification	Contract Duration
1) Seed Warehouse (P5.8 M) 2) Research & Development Building (P8.5 M)	Minimum Category is Medium A	150 Calendar days

Projects/Contracts location is at Murcia, Negros Occidental.

SCHEDULE OF ACTIVITIES	VENUE	DATE/TIME
Issuance of Registration Requirement Forms to applicant contractors for Eligibility	PhilRice-Visayas Office	August 18 - 20, 2003 8:00 - 5:00
Submission/Acceptance of documents for Prequalification/Eligibility	PhilRice-Visayas Office	August 26, 2003 8:00 - 5:00
Issuance of Bid/Tender Documents	PhilRice-Visayas Office	September 3, 2003 8:00 - 5:00
Site Inspection (Cansilayan, Murcia, Negros Occidental)	PhilRice-Visayas Office	September 9, 2003 2:00 PM
Pre-Bid Conference	PhilRice-Visayas Office	September 19, 2003 2:00 PM
Bidding Proper	PhilRice-Central Office Science City of Muñoz, Nueva Ecija	October 3, 2003 2:00 PM

Eligibility requirement forms shall be available at the PhilRice-Visayas Office located at 5th , 2nd Road (former Dr. Halili's residence), Hermilinda Homes, Mansilingan, Bacolod City, upon submission of a letter of intent (addressed to the PhilRice BAC Chair) and payment of a non-refundable fee of Php 500.00.

Bid Proposal Forms/Tender Documents shall be issued only to eligible contractors upon payment of non-refundable fee of Php 2,000.00 per project/contract.

PhilRice reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids thereof, waive any formalities found therein or to accept or reject any or to award to any contractor whose bids is considered most advantageous to PhilRice and/or to the government.

(Sgd.) LEOCADIO S. SEBASTIAN
Executive Director

(PDI – August 9 & 16, 2003)

JOB Market

Visit any of the Inquirer Classified Ads branch and drop your resumés in our new

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We gather your resumés and forward them to companies with employment needs.

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Festival of Festivals

Festival Events

Hiyas sa Kadayawan Fashion Presentation	August 15
8th Davao Horse Show & Competition	August 15
Lumba Bisikleta	August 16
SK Federation Chess Tournament	August 17
Pamulaw	August 18
Pasalamat	August 18
Indigay sa Lumadnong Bulak	August 18-19
[illegible] Technographics	August 19
Ginoong Kadayawan	August 19
Hiyas sa Kadayawan	August 20
Urog Etnika	August 20
Music on the Road Star Quest/Morag F4	August 20
Mindanao Indigenous Dance Festival	August 20-22
Davao River Festival	August 21
Agongan ug Kulintangan	August 21
Bagobo Horse Fight	August 22
Davao Indigenous Peoples Festival	August 22
Indak-Indak sa Kadalanan	August 23
Tunog ug Pagyagan sa Kadalanan	August 23
Davao-Japanese Friendship Centennial Procession	August 24
Floral Float Parade	August 24
Pasiburugay	August 24
Kadayawan Sale	August 24
Bakbakan sa Park	August 24
Ang Palad Way Buot (Live Drama)	August 24
Wild Prints: Kadayawan Edition	August 24
Agro Industrial Trade Fair	August 18-31
Mindanao Festivals Exhibition	August 18-24
Japanese Centennial Exhibits	August 18-24
Davao Arts Exhibits	August 18-31
[illegible] International 35th Exhibit	August 21-24
Urog Etnika Exhibits	August 21-24
STRAND Mindanao Culinary Arts Festival	August 22-24
3rd Kadayawan Off-Road Challenge	August 23-24
Dagway Kadayawan	August 23-31

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OBITUARY REQUIREMENTS:
❶ Copy of Death Certificate
❷ Any identification document (I.D.)

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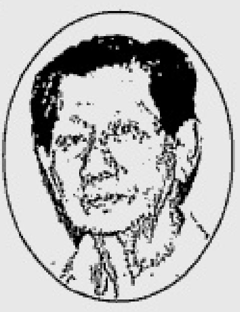
ANTONIO "TONY" ANCHETA ANCHETA



Former Board Member, GSIS
Former President, GSIS Employees Association
Former Punong Barangay, Barangay Fairview
Husband, Father, Advisor,
Mentor and Public Servant

Joined our Creator on August 3, 2003, Sunday
at the age of 78.

He is survived by his loving wife **MARTINA ALINEA ANCHETA**; children **MABEL** and **RAFFY DALEJA**; **JUN-JUN** and children **ANTONIO LANCE III** and **ANTONIO JAN IV**; sister **JOSEFINA**; nephews, nieces and other grandchildren.

Tata Tony will most remembered as the first and longest serving Punong Bayan of Barangay Fairview. His humility, wisdom and dedication for work earned for him respect, high regard and love of many, especially when he co-founded Fairview Park Subdivision.

His body lies in state at the Cathedral of the Good Shepherd, Fairview Park Subdivision, Quezon City and will be transferred to the Barangay Fairview Hall on August 9, 2003. Necrological rites will be held at the Barangay Hall on August 15, 2003 at 8:00 p.m.

Interment will be on August 16, 2003 at the Himlayang Pilipino Memorial Park after the 9:00 a.m. Mass at the Cathedral of the Good Shepherd.

On her first death anniversary
we lovingly remember

María Teresa Klar Razón

who passed away on 11 August 2002.

A Special Mass will be offered on Monday,
11 August 2003 at

Santuario de San Antonio Parish
McKinley Road, Forbes Park, Makati City
at 7:00 p.m.

Other Masses will also be offered at:

St. John Bosco Parish
Arnaiz St., Makati City
at 6:30 a.m.

St. Alphonsus Mary de Liguouri Parish
Magallanes Village, Makati City
at 7:00 a.m.

Santuario de San Jose Parish
Greenhills East, San Juan, Metro Manila
at 7:15 a.m.

Basilica of the Immaculate Concepcion
(Manila Metropolitan Cathedral)
Intramuros, Manila
at 7:30 a.m.

Nuestra Señora de Guia Parish
M.H. del Pilar cor. A. Flores Street
Ermita, Manila
at 6:00 p.m.

Malate Catholic Church
Our Lady of Remedies Parish
M.H. del Pilar, Malate, Manila
at 6:00 p.m.

St. James the Great Parish
Cuenca cor. Ibaan Street
Ayala Alabang Village
Muntinlupa City
at 6:30 p.m.

"Be at rest once more, O my soul, for the Lord has been good to me." Psalm 116:7

"We are all warriors conquering time" (Bernardo 1949)

CONSTANCIO Ma. BERNARDO Y ANASTACIO

of Obando, Bulacan

and a former professor of the University of the Philippines College of Fine Arts,
joined His maker in his Grace on August 8, 2003 at the age of 89.

An Artist and a humanist, he devoted his life to creativity and the perfection of his craft.

His bereaved family: wife **Nieves de Guzman**; sons **Angelo** and **Rodino**; daughters-in-law **Celia** and **Cynthia**; grandchildren **Angelo Jr., Aura Leah & Raymond Reyes, Alethea, Angelo Josephat** and **Michael Antonio & Michelle, Mark Rodin, Jay Lemuel, Josef Alan**; great grandchildren, **Angelo Exequiel, Eiwell Angela, Asaliah Reiiel, Michen Leliel, Seth Gabriel**; and other relatives and friends request your prayers for the repose of his soul.

His body lies in state at Sta. Maria Della Estrada Parish Church at Katipunan Road cor. Pansol Street, Quezon City.

Interment shall be on Tuesday, August 12, 2003 at Himlayang Pilipino.

In lieu of flowers, donations for a U.P. College of Fine Arts scholarship in painting would be greatly appreciated.

Rufa Calope Galicia

Died on Monday, August 4, 2003

She was wife to the late Felix, Sr. & loving mother - grandmother to her surviving children and grandchildren:

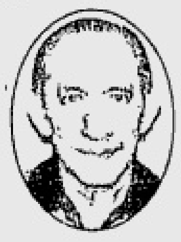
Josephine married to Mark Sugai
Matthew - grandson, of Chicago, USA.
Ma. Fe of California, USA & Felix Jr.

Mass & Funeral services will be on Sunday, August 10, 2003 at 2:30 p.m., ICP Church Project 8, Quezon City.

Interment will follow at Himlayang Pilipino in Tandang Sora Avenue, Quezon City.

Our Dearly Beloved

ANTONIO "Dad" ZULUETA CLEMENTE



(September 20, 1914 - August 7, 2003)
of San Antonio Village, Makati

Peacefully joined our Lord on August 7, 2003 at the age of 88.

His loving wife **Dolores Clemente** (†); children **Raul, Becky** (†); **Maribel** and **Annie**; living brothers and sister; **Eddie, Joe, Enrique, Cecille, Charo, Lourdita & Marita**; grandchildren **Debbie, Dennis & David Williams, Anton & Anna Cris Hernandez, Carmen, Miguel** and **Rean Angelo Pinzon**, his sons in-law **Kenneth Williams, Rene Pinzon, Leo dos Remedios**, relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remain lies in the National Shrine of the Sacred Heart Parish, Sacred Heart Street former Dao Street, San Antonio Village, Makati City.

Interment will be on August 12, 2003, Tuesday after the 8:00 a.m. Mass at Manila Memorial Park, Parañaque.

Norma Dig Pallagao, M.D.

of Baggao, Cagayan and Bacon, Sorsogon
Peacefully joined her Creator
on August 7, 2003.

Her loving husband Dr. Salvador C. Pallagao; children Anthony and Mari Grace, Cecille; grandchildren Anton Miguel and Mari Antonette; relatives and friends request the readers to pray for her eternal happiness in heaven.

Her remains lie in state at Nacional Memorial Homes, 264 G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City and will be transferred to Centro Baggao, Cagayan on August 11, 2003.

Interment to be announced later at the Baggao Catholic Cemetery.

In Loving Memory
on the 1st Death Anniversary of

Horacio A. Gomez

who passed away in the Grace of our Lord
on August 9, 2003 at the age of 82.

We wish to convey our sincerest gratitude and appreciation to our relatives, friends and all those who sent condolences, flowers, donations, offered masses and prayers, attended the funeral rites and helped and comforted us in so many ways during our time of bereavement.

"For God so loved the World, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have Everlasting life."

John 3:16

DEATH NOTICES

ATTY. JOSE TOLENTINO DIOSOMITO

Joined our Creator on August 6, 2003
at the age of 85.

His remains lie in state at the Pastoral Hall of the
Diocesan Shrine Parish of the Immaculate Concepcion,
Naic, Cavite.

Interment will be on Sunday, August 10, 2003 at
Nazarene Eternal Garden, Naic, Cavite after the 2:00 p.m. Mass.

DOMINADOR M. ALMEDA, JR. MD

Joined our Creator on August 6, 2003
at the age of 65.

His remains lie in state at Naga City.

Interment will be on Sunday, August 10, 2003 at the
Peñafrancia Cemetery, Naga City after the 9:00 a.m. Mass.

The Lord is my Shepherd; I shall not want.
He makes me to lie down in green pastures;
He leads me beside the still waters.
Psalm 23: 1-2

UNIVET

The Stockholders, Management & Employees of
UNIVET AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS, INC.
& SARIMANOK FEEDS COMPANY, INC.

wish to condole with the family of their beloved colleague

RONNIE RAMOS FAJARDO

November 12, 1964 - August 7, 2003

His dedication, patience and loyalty
will always be an inspiration to all.

His wife, **Josephine Jesvir "JECEE" Singayan** and their sons-**Gideon Isaiah "GIAN"**, **James Ezra "JERO"** and **Franz Samuel Elijah "EULY"**; mother **Cristeta** (†) father **PABLO**, brothers **Romeo, Eleazer, Orlando, Bernie & Martino** and sisters **Eva Pajar, Evelyn Maniquiz, Ruth Almonte, Rhodora Candelaria, Elvira Epres, Arlene Luna** and **Elizabeth Valenzuela** request the pious readers to pray for the repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at their residnece No. 18 Redwood St., Kingsville Hills, Barangay San Isidro, Antipolo City.

Interment will be in Barangay Padolina,
General Tinio, Nueva Ecija.

SCIENCE/HEALTH

E-mail: pr_science_health@inquirer.com.ph

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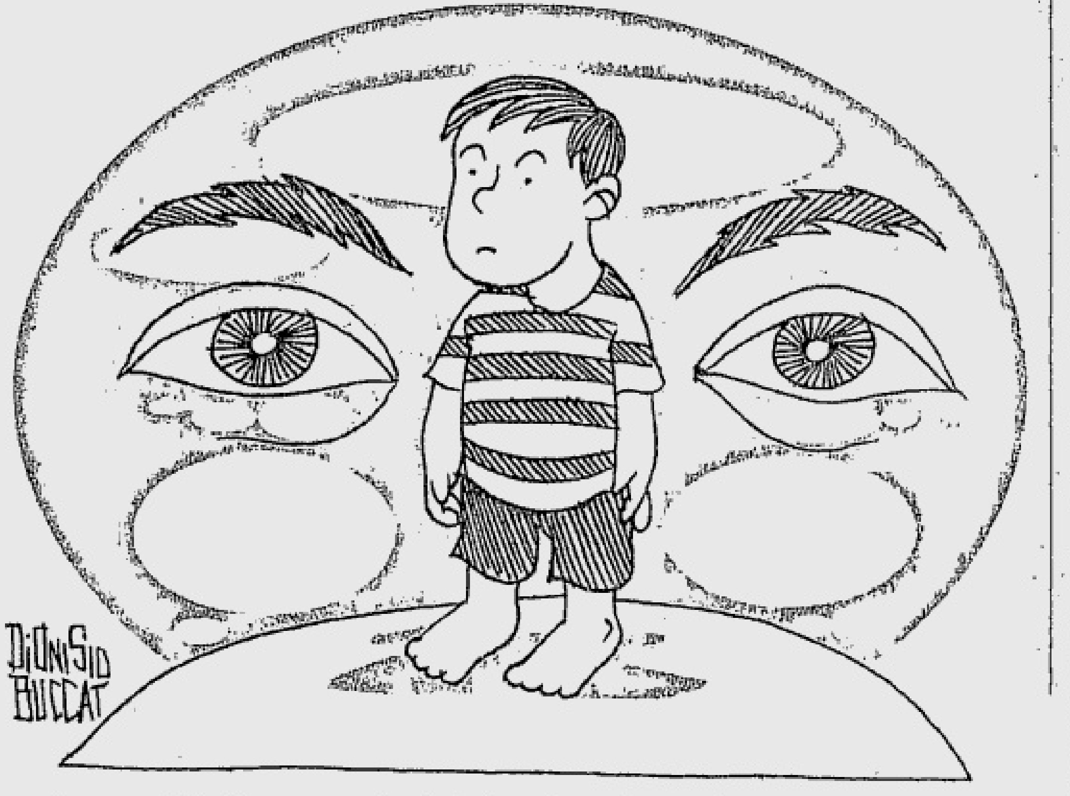
Checking your child's vision

By Tessa Salazar



TECHNOLOGY has taken its toll on our eyes. You now seldom see children playing ball, *taguan* (hide and seek) or *tumbang preso* outside. Nowadays, they'd rather play on their computers.

In China, you see children as young as 5 working on computer microchips. At the same time, the country reports more near-sighted children.

But then again, with or without computers, the unfortunate fact remains that there are children who don't see anything at all. At such a tender age, they have become blind.

Warning

The Optometric Association of the Philippines warns of a worse case scenario if error of refraction would not be corrected: the child could go blind.

The Sight for a Child organized by the OAP wishes to train teachers how to screen their students in their respective public schools. Students screened by these teachers would then be given an assessment through a visual health report card.

If a child needs further medical attention, the parents may avail themselves of free services rendered by doctors who are affiliated volunteers of the association.

The Sight for a Child is ready to be implemented for first and second grade public schoolchildren.

Within five years, the program aims to be implemented in all grade levels, ensuring that all elementary schoolchildren would be examined.

The second phase of the project focuses on children who are not yet in school.

Optometrists are the frontliners in eye care services.

The City of Manila, for instance, has declared every last week of June as "sight for a child week" for all elementary pupils. All children, whether in public or private schools, would have to undergo a comprehensive eye exam by an optometrist.

Reaction

Eye experts noted that students must possess a variety of scanning, focusing and visual coordination skills for them to learn and get meaning from what they read. Visual skills, if not properly developed, can make learning for children difficult and stressful. The Optometric Extension Program Foundation Inc. in California says these youngsters react in one or a combination of ways:

They avoid near visual work entirely or as much as possible; they attempt to do their work anyway but with lowered understanding; they often experience discomfort, fatigue and short attention span; they adapt by becoming nearsighted or by suppressing the vision of one eye.

Signs of vision problems

The signs of vision problems among children include:

- Holding a book very close (only seven or eight inches away)
- Holding the head at an extreme angle to the book when reading
- Covering one eye when reading
- Squinting when doing near vision work
- Constant poor posture when working
- Moving his head back and forth while reading instead of moving only the eyes
- Poor attention span, drowsiness after prolonged work on less than arm's length away
- Homework requiring reading takes longer than it should
- Occasionally or persistently reports seeing only blurred objects while reading or writing
- Reporting blurring or doubling vision only when work is hard
- Losing one's place when moving his gaze from desk work to the blackboard or when copying from text to notebook
- Needing to use a marker to keep his place when reading.

Eye care

If children, and even adults for that matter, are constantly exposed to computers and television, they have to wear eyeglasses that filter ultraviolet rays (UV blockers). They can also wear anti-radiation lenses.

Many have reported that once they used such glasses, they experienced less episodes of headaches.

"We have a '20-20-20' advice for patients. Every 20 minutes, you rest your eyes for 20 seconds and look 20 feet away. That relaxes your eyes," said Dr. Carmen Absesamis Dichoso, OAP president.

Ergonomics also plays an important role. The distance of a computer to one's eyes should be 30 to 40 inches away. One's head should be higher than the monitor.

Helpful hints

Here are other tips in taking care of your vision:

- While watching television, the viewer should be at least five to six feet away.
- Never lie down while reading.
- Itchy eyes should not be rubbed. Rubbing the eyes may injure the cornea that can result in astigmatism.
- See an optometrist at least once a year.

Philippines ranks 3rd in blindness prevalence

STATISTICS show the Philippines with the third highest incidence of blindness worldwide, next only to India and Africa.

Approximately 0.78 percent of our population is blind, said the Optometric Association of the Philippines. This translates to about 500,000 people. Of that number, about 17,000 are children.

In 1954, the Philippines reported only about 40,000 cases of blindness.

Prevalence

A University of the Philippines Institute of Ophthalmology national survey of blindness data in 1995 showed that visual disabilities nationwide was 4.87 percent, translating to about three million Filipinos. Of that number, 480,000 are blind in both eyes and 720,000 are blind in one eye.

Cataract is still the No. 1 cause of blindness in the Philippines (accounting for 61 percent of all visual disabilities in the country). About 22.36 percent of blindness is caused by uncorrected errors of refraction such as myopia, nearsightedness and farsightedness.

Bilateral low vision accounts for 39.98 percent and monocular low vision for 24.05 percent.

The OAP is now focusing on blind Filipinos who lost their sight due to error of refraction that was neglected.

The cause of error of refraction could be congenital, and at which case is discovered late. There are many types of error of refraction. There is nearsightedness, farsightedness and astigmatism.

Most of the time, however, the cause of the error is environmental.

Technology, for instance, has contributed to the increase of eye defects.

Malnutrition is another reason for the prevalence of error of refraction.

Dr. Carmen Abesamis Dichoso, president of the OAP, laments that she sees more pediatric patients now than before. She says there used to be one out of 10 child patients, now it's five out of 10 patients.

Frontliners

Optometrists are considered frontliners. If the frontline is effective and sufficient, then most blindness could be prevented.

However, as with other medical fields, the number of optometrists in the countryside is wanting. We do not find optometrists in the barangay health centers or in municipal health centers, according to Dichoso.

August was recently declared Sight Saving Month.

Of the more than 10,000 licensed optometrists, only about 60 percent are actively practicing the profession in the country. The rest have either retired or have migrated.

About 50 percent of optometrists in the Middle East are Filipinos. The Middle East, incidentally, has no school of optometry.

"We export optometrists. And we suffer the consequence," Dichoso says.

A report submitted by Cynthia V. del Mundo to the OAP showed that of the 1,267 ophthalmologists listed with the Philippine Board of Ophthalmology, about 82 percent are in active practice. Approximately 50 new ophthalmologists are being added yearly. These ophthalmologists constitute 1.33 percent of the country's total physicians, which number 95,016.

Tessa R. Salazar

Yawning, the social activity

DISCOVER

Massie Santos Ballon

YOU know the scenario: someone in the group yawns and suddenly other people are yawning, too, although they're not sleepy. You know that yawning is somehow contagious, but you don't know why.

Enter Dr. Steven Platek and his fellow researchers from the Psychology Department of the State University of New York in Albany. They have a theory why some people yawn after someone does, and why some people remain "immune."

I have to tell you though that after reading the paper, I'm not sure anyone will want to be known as a non-yawner.

Empathetic yawning

According to the paper published in the July 15 issue of Cognitive Brain Research, yawning is so contagious that just reading about, thinking about it or even hearing a person yawn is enough to make others yawn.

The correct term isn't "contagious," say Platek et al.; rather, it's "empathetic."

Most fantasy books talk about empathy as the ability to feel what someone else does so that he feels sad when she's sad, and feels glad when she's glad, and that's the only Barry Manilow phrase that has relevance so I'll stop now.

The point is, when someone yawns, some people subconsciously feel the need to connect to the yawner in some way, which usually means they end up yawning, too.

Platek et al. say a person who empathizes with the yawner has a sense of self-identity. He knows who he is and can relate to the yawner in some way.

It's been suggested that people who yawn when someone else does are subconsciously trying to help him not be socially embarrassed.

There are many examples of people trying to save others from various social faux pas. A US president once had to dip his fingers into a bowl of soup because the guest of honor had done so during an extremely formal dinner.

Now we get to the tricky part of the paper. If the nice people trying to save the yawner from social ruin are considered empathetic, what do you call those who don't yawn when someone else does?

Platek et al. says they're schizophrenic or else show symptoms of a fragmented personality, which means they have identity issues, may not have good personal hygiene, and can't relate to anyone, much less the yawner, which means they can't yawn along. This was the part of the paper that got my attention. Hopefully it's gotten yours, too.

Three experiments

Here's what Platek et al. actually did in their studies. (For the sake of brevity, and because Experiment 2 is so vaguely worded I'm not sure myself what they did exactly, I'll only deal with the first and last of the three experiments.)

First they had 65 college students take the Schizotypal Personality Questionnaire (SQP), which asks a number of "Yes" or "No" questions such as whether the person has close friends, has certain beliefs and has certain personality traits.

To distinguish yawners from non-yawners, the participants were then asked to watch videos of eight people either laughing, yawning or displaying no expression whatsoever.

What the researchers found was that participants who yawned the most with the videos of yawning people also had the lowest SQPs, which indicated a stronger sense of self. Those who yawned rarely or not at all during the video had higher SQP scores, indicating an inability to relate, possibly because they can't connect with themselves.

Platek et al. then decided to test each participant's sense of self by flashing on a computer screen the photo of the participant and two strangers. The participant had to press the letter "V" on the keyboard if he saw his face, and the letter "B" if a stranger popped up. Surprisingly, or perhaps not, researchers found that the empathetic yawners had faster response times to their own faces than did the non-yawners.

The test results again support the idea that people who can't relate to others have problems relating to themselves.

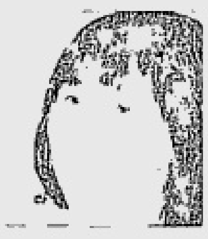
I don't know about anyone else, but after reading this study, I felt bad for the college students who participated and found out they have schizophrenic personality tendencies. That can't be good for their social lives. On the other hand, maybe some of them have just realized why they haven't been getting dates.

The good news is that all of them received college credit for taking part in this study.

And how does this study benefit the rest of us? The next time you yawn at a party, check out who yawns along. You might be surprised to know who's yawning with you, and who's not.

Scientists and entrepreneurs

EUREKA!



Queena N. Lee-Chua

IN THESE tumultuous times, cooperation among different sectors is essential not just for personal progress, but for national development as well. Entrepreneurs are a key sector, and with the help of scientists, they can make their businesses grow. Elizabeth B. Ignacio of the Science and Technology Information Institute recently did a paper on such partnerships, and I paraphrase excerpts here.

Filipinos have long engaged in small and medium scale enterprises (SMEs), focusing on foods such as rice cakes, sweet bananas, *pili* and peanut brittle, *camote* cue, *suman*, sweetened *ube* and *gabi*. Fish is preserved into *bagoong*, smoked or dried and sold in neighboring barangays. Fruits and vegetables are turned into jams, but are often crudely made, poorly packaged and have short shelf lives.

"*Bawal magkasakit*," a TV ad goes, "*kasi mahal ang gamot*."

Indeed, medicine has eaten up a big bulk of the Filipino family's budget. Up to now, a lot of sick people in the barrios are treated with herbal medicines prescribed by the village barefoot doctor. Faith and herbal healing had become an indirect enterprise because herbals were sold in packages individually or as *pito-pito* and used for fever, headache, toothache or as bath, diuretic and for treatment of every kind of sickness.

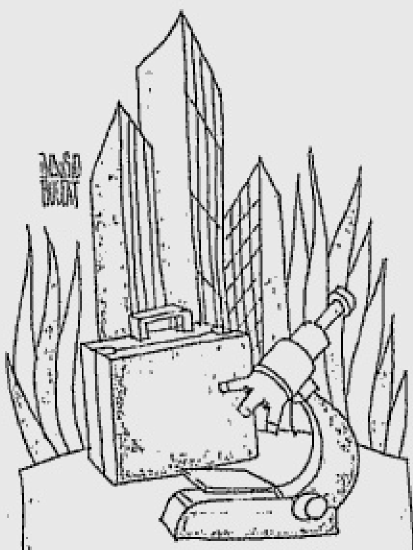
The Department of Science and Technology (DOST), in cooperation with pharmaceuticals, has studied the validity of these decoctions and later made herbal tablets out of them. Some, such as Ascop *lagundi* and *ampalaya* tablets, are now sold in drugstores.

Other home industries involved furniture and shoe-making, handicrafts, embroidered dresses and home decors. The products are found not only in homes or local markets, but in big malls as well.

R&D partners

There was an increasing demand for local products in the world market but many entrepreneurs were not able to keep pace with modern technology, which could have helped them meet such demands.

Through the help of the DOST, scientists and entrepreneurs became partners in research and development. This unique partnership of "dwellers in ivory towers and barefoot businesspeople" [illegible]



and was the highlight of the National Science and Technology Week last July.

More than 50 SMEs whose products have benefited from DOST's technical and financial assistance exhibited their wares at the Techno Fair, which according to DOST Secretary Estrella Alabastro, was designed to be a marketing event. The goals were to facilitate adoption/commercialization of technologies by the private sector, generate investment/sales and expand business linkages of the participating entrepreneurs.

Forums were also held to disseminate know-how to those interested in putting up SMEs. Topics included trends, forecasts and technology needs of the ornamental, horticulture and furniture industries, the potential of Hong Kong and China markets for fresh mango exports, SME empowerment in the seaweed, milkfish and tilapia industries through S&T, and health technologies.

Investors also discussed prospects for technologies such as processed food, marine, agribusiness, microelectronics and IT.

Sweet-smelling town

One example concerns *ylang-ylang* [illegible]

fumes, soaps, shampoos, lotions and mosquito repellents.

In an interview by Mary Charlotte Fresco of the S and T Media Service, Clemente Apuan, former mayor of Anao, Tarlac, stated, "We have been producing *ylang-ylang* oil even before 1900. In fact, Manila practically held the world monopoly of *ylang-ylang* oil, considered the finest of *ylang-ylang* oils in the world."

Apuan was instrumental in making the municipality the *ylang-ylang* oil capital of the country.

Anao is the smallest town in Tarlac, but has the largest *ylang-ylang* plantation in the country, with more than 9,000 trees and 2.5 hectares of *ylang-ylang* nursery.

"We had an abundant source of raw materials, but there were no appropriate technology and facility in the early 1990s that could bring out the best in our flowers. The oil extracted was of poor quality and minimal, since the locally fabricated extractor was not suitable for processing *ylang-ylang*," recalled Apuan.

The DOST provided a 30-kg capacity *ylang-ylang* oil extractor meticulously designed and capable of producing higher yield and better quality oil.

The Metals Industry Research and Development Center fabricated the parts of the prototype extractor. Chemists performed intensive physico-chemical analysis on different grades of *ylang-ylang* oil extracted from the machine and confirmed that the oils were within acceptable international standards and comparable with those from Madagascar and Comoros (countries popular for exporting the finest *ylang-ylang* oil).

More local residents became active participants and made profits from *ylang-ylang* flowers, which they sell at P50 per three kilos. The town has started supplying and selling *ylang-ylang* seeds to other cooperatives and commercial buyers. A large bulk of flowers are dried and processed into insect repellent and laundry soap.

When Anao Mayor Rodolfo Guerrero assumed his post in 1998, the project on *ylang-ylang* oil extraction was further intensified. A new 50-kg capacity oil extractor was acquired through DOST assistance. Today, Anao takes pride in its locally made *ylang-ylang* scented hot oil, hair conditioner, fragrance powder, detergent powder, [illegible]

A visit to an OB-Gyne a treat for women

By Charles E. Buban

IT would be a great thing to finally eradicate cervical cancer among women, the most preventable of gynecologic cancers.

But the fact is, more than 450,000 women worldwide are still diagnosed with cervical cancer each year and nearly 250,000 die, according to the World Health Organization.

"Cervical cancer is a serious disease, but a disease that is almost 100 percent curable with accurate and early detection," said Rebecca Singson, a fellow of the Philippine Obstetrics and Gynecologic Society.

Cervical cancer begins in the cervix, the part of the uterus or womb that opens to the vagina.

NEExt...
PAP SMEAR
StephB.

Incidence can be reduced

A simple Pap smear can address the situation, according to Singson, as what most developed countries have done in recent years to reduce their number of cases.

But the situation is quite different in developing countries (where most deaths from cervical cancer occur) like the Philippines where women do not have regular Pap smear tests.

Because cervical cancer typically develops slowly—over a period of several years—women have the luxury of time to carry out the visit at least once a year.

"Even if a visit to an obstetrician and gynecologist falls last among their priorities, it would be great if more women treat themselves—like during their birthday—with a visit to an OB-Gyne," Singson suggested.

Test, too intimidating?

Physicians now generally rely on annual Pap smears—an examination that costs between P50 and P320 (sometimes offered for free during medical missions)—to detect the disease or the disease's warning signs.

But still few women take the procedure. Could it be that the test itself is too intimidating for most Filipino women?

"I guess its cultural, most women here often find the procedure too embarrassing," Singson said. "For them it's too personal and they would opt for somebody whom they really know before they let themselves be examined."

For Singson, the best way to deal with this problem is to intensify the campaign.

"We need to open their minds, so whether it's a government, private or joint initiative, the most important thing is we let more and more women get more informed about cervical cancer and how to prevent it," she said.

"If women know the benefits involved, they will be motivated," she added.

Standard way

A Pap smear test is the standard way to see if there are any cell changes that women should be concerned with. Majority of the cervical cancer cases in the Philippines were detected through this procedure.

The Pap smear test looks at a sample of cells taken from the cervix under a microscope to see if there are any cells that are abnormal. It is a very good test for finding not only cervical cancer cells but also cells before they might become cancer cells.

But the test has its limitations. Singson said there is always the chance that the pathologist may miss an abnormal smear during examination.

"It could be that the obstetrician failed to collect adequate specimen for the pathologist or the supposed abnormal tissues got left behind in the collecting apparatus (and not on the slides where it can be examined) or the pathologist misinterpreted the findings," said Singson.

Other tests

It's a good thing there are other ways apart from just relying on Pap smear test results. When a Pap smear result showed some changes or is abnormal, a colposcopy is the next recommended test.

"It's important to note that the majority of abnormal Pap smear results are still not cancerous and with colposcopy, results can be further ascertained," explained Singson.

Singson said the chance of finding cervical cancer increases to 95 percent with colposcopy, compared to Pap smear's 50 percent.

Magnifying instrument

Colposcopy allows your doctor to look at your cervix through a special magnifying instrument called a colposcope.

Colposcopes help doctors detect problems of the cervix that are not visible to the naked eye.

With the recent addition of video and computer technology, video colposcopy has taken the usual procedure to the next level.

At the Gynecologic Screening Clinic at the Asian Hospital and Medical Center in Alabang, Muntinlupa, for example, Singson, a certified video colposcopist, can now view her patient's cervix through a video monitor in a manner similar to laparoscopy.

"The great advantage is that both the colposcopist and the patient can visualize her cervix," said Singson.

HPV test

Just last December, the Human Papilloma Virus (HPV) test became finally available in the country, considered a more reliable means of detecting the cancer according to Singson.

An HPV test checks directly for high-risk HPV viruses. About 20 HPVs have been linked to cervical cancer.

"If you test positive for a certain type of HPV and you are over 30, your chances of developing cervical cancer increases by 116-fold," Singson warned.

Like in a Pap smear test, a small soft brush is used to collect cervical cells that are sent to a laboratory.

Cervical cancer used to be the No. 1 cause of death from cancer in women worldwide. But when the Pap smear test and a couple of others were introduced, the disease was relegated second to breast cancer as the leading cancer killer of women.

New test for cervical cancer

By Rebecca B. Singson, MD
Contributor

THE MOST common method of testing for cervical cancer is traditionally the Pap smear but recent studies show it may not be as effective as previously believed. It can actually miss one out of two women who may have the symptoms of the cancer.

Fortunately, a new test which can be done at the same time as a Pap smear can now detect the presence of the human papillomavirus (HPV), a virus closely associated with the development of cervical cancer and other genital cancers.

The HPV DNA test using the Hybrid Capture II System was developed by a company called Digene. The test entails taking cervical swabs, much like a Pap smear, using the brush from the Digene Cervical Sampler. Pap smear collected with a broom collection device and rinsed in the ThinPrep System PreservCyt solution may also be used to provide the same specimen for HPV testing.

Two ways

You see, Pap smears are done in two ways: the conventional way is by smearing the cervical swab on a glass slide; the latest way is to use the broom collection device with the ThinPrep System. The latter has the advantage of providing the sample test for HPV in case you deem it necessary. So, you can in fact ask your gynecologist to perform the test when you get your next Pap smear.

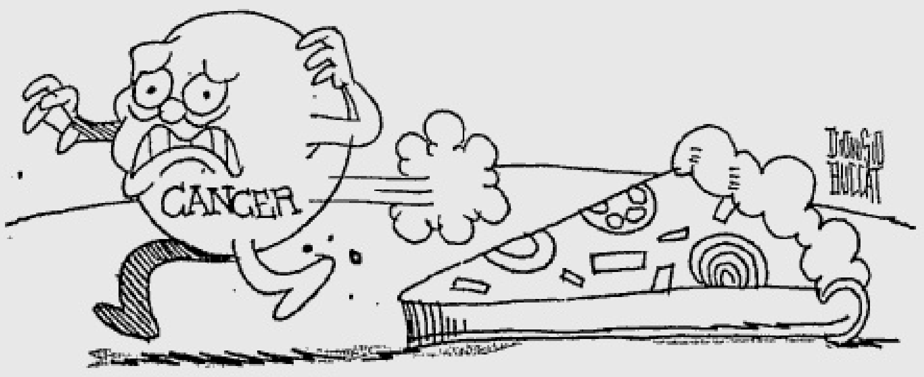
There have even been studies in China and in Canada where the women performed the swabs on themselves by inserting the cervical brush intravaginally, trying to reach the cervix, referred to as self-collection which also yielded satisfactory results. The Digene HPV DNA test is the only PDA-approved test for detecting HPV.

Many recent studies have shown that the combination of HPV DNA test and Pap smear improves the detection rate of precancerous lesions of the cervix compared to Pap smear alone.

Is this test available in the Philippines?

Fortunately, yes, at the Makati Medical Center (MMC). The test will also be available at the Gynecologic Screening Clinic of the Asian Hospital and Medical Center in Alabang, Muntinglupa, by July 26. Hospitals from all over the country can send their specimens to the MMC for testing. The test costs P2,900 and the results come out after two weeks since all specimens are batched and ran once bi-weekly for lower costs.

(Dr. Rebecca B. Singson is a Fellow of the Obstetrics & Gynecologic Society.)



Study says pizza helps keep cancer away

ROME—A study has revealed that eating the hugely popular meal-on-a-plate on a regular basis could help stave off certain forms of cancer.

The eating habits of over 3,000 Italians suffering from cancer of the stomach or digestive tract were monitored during the study and compared with a sample of about 5,000 people suffering from other diseases, the daily La Repubblica reported recently.

The results showed that people who ate pizza once or several times a week were less likely to get cancer than those who chose not to eat it at all.

According to the study carried out by the Pharmacology Institute in Milan, the risks of getting mouth, esophageal or colon cancer plunged by as much as 34 percent, 59 percent and 26 percent, respectively.

The secret, according to Silvano Gallus who led the research, appeared to be connected to the preventive properties of the humble tomato.

"We knew that tomato sauce could offer protection against certain tumors, but we did not expect pizza as a complete meal to also offer such protective powers," he said.

However a warning note was sounded by Milan-based epidemiologist Carlo La Vecchia aimed at millions who may feel they now have the ultimate excuse to indulge their craving: "There is nothing to indicate that pizza is the only thing responsible for these results."

La Vecchia said the health benefits of the tomato, which is rich in antioxidants, has long been known.

"Pizza could simply be indicative of a lifestyle and food habits, in other words the Italian version of a Mediterranean diet," he said.

Mediterranean food is traditionally rich in olive oil, fiber, vegetables, fruit, flour and freshly cooked food, including nonfrozen, home-made pizza. *AFP*

Street kids get new lease on quality life

BAXTER Healthcare Philippines, the leading name in healthcare products globally, has donated two care-giving grants for the benefit of street children at the Pangarap Foundation and Tuloy sa Don Bosco Foundation.

"We at Baxter HealthCare Philippines have decided to focus on helping street children because they possess the highest hope for the future of our country," said Geocel Olanday, general manager of BHPI. "We're honored and thankful for this opportunity to help two institutions that reflect our own ideals of dedication, sincerity and efficiency of service."

Said Dr. Edwin V. Rodriguez, medical marketing officer of Bioscience Division: "This is Baxter's commitment to help sustain life and provide people with a life that will hopefully make them productive and useful. Our program improves the quality of life of Filipino street children by addressing their medical, dental and psychological needs. Hopefully this will sustain them and see them through a promising future."

Nihilism in brain attacks deter early cure

By Rafael R. Castillo, MD

MEDICAL FILES

IF WE want to really control strokes or brain attacks, physicians and patients have to change their nihilistic attitude that nothing much can be done when a stroke already develops. This makes a lot of people think that a suspicion of stroke is not an urgent indication to seek immediate consultation since nature should just be allowed to take its own course to allow the stroke patient to either recover or succumb.

This is one of the serious misconceptions that the Stroke Society of the Philippines headed by renowned neurologist Dr. Joven Cuanang is trying to correct as they go around the country educating both patients and physicians on how to prevent stroke and diagnose it early enough before irreversible injury to the brain sets in.

Passion for stroke control

"In brain attack, you have to beat the clock," stresses Joven whose passion for stroke control can only be matched by his passion for the arts.

Worldwide, stroke or brain attack is the leading cause of disability or loss of productivity of men and women at the prime of their career. In our country and the rest of the Southeast nations, the incidence of brain attacks appears to be higher than in Western countries. Nothing can be more pitiful than to see the head of the family with several mouths to feed suddenly succumbing to stroke and having to be taken cared of for the rest of his life, in stead of being the one tending and earning bread for his family.

The major risk factors for brain attacks such as high blood pressure, abnormal cholesterol and diabetes, may all be found in one who feels perfectly fine, without symptoms and may even appear to be in the pink of health.

"If only I found time to have a checkup with my doctor..." is all many stroke victims could mutter as they lay in bed with half of their body paralyzed, and a silicone tube inserted through their nostrils to the stomach for osterized food and medicines to be administered.

Dr. Cuanang explains that brain attack may either be due to a blockage (thrombosis) or a rupture of an artery (hemorrhage). When an artery is blocked, blood can no longer supply the necessary nutrients to the brain cells. There is a great chance of salvaging brain tissue if the blockage is relieved. This time window is from three to six hours, after which treatment intervention may not be effective anymore. In the case of a rupture of a blood vessel, sizeable blood clots may injure the brain by sheer pressure, and timely removal of the blood clot is life saving.

DIONISIO BUCAY

The big problem in stroke treatment, which is the frustration of stroke specialists, is that in most instances, patients see their doctors or get brought to the ER way past the golden period of opportunity or the therapeutic window, within which permanent brain injury can still be prevented. Once the brain tissue is damaged, it's permanently damaged and even in the best of hands and medical facilities, recovery of whatever brain function that has been lost, can no longer be regained.

There are a number of reasons for this delay, according to Dr. Cuanang. Only 25 percent of the victims correctly identify the symptoms that they are suffering from. If the symptoms are mild, they consider this to be trivial and attribute it to some other cause and they procrastinate to seek medical consultation. They may either attribute this to some other conditions, and they often self-medicate or ignore it altogether. If the symptoms wax and wane, they further delay seeking medical advice hoping that they will disappear.

"This is very frustrating because this is the best time to institute measures to reverse the symptoms," laments Dr. Cuanang.

Increasing public awareness

The SSP has formulated an effective and comprehensive community education program to increase public awareness in the recognition of stroke symptoms. The most reliable symptoms that are highly indicative of brain attack are: weakness of half of the body, slurring of speech, or inability to express ones thought, dizziness, loss of balance, headache and vomiting, loss of vision especially if it involves one eye.

Since there are two different types of brain attacks, the management of which are also markedly different, it is necessary to differentiate an occlusion of a blood vessel producing brain infarction versus a rupture of a blood vessel producing a hemorrhage. I remember when we were medical interns, brain specialists would rely only on their physical examination and clinical evaluation of the patient. But it can be humbling for even the most astute clinician sometimes err in their diagnosis.

Stroke teams

The SSP is pushing for the formation of stroke teams and the creation of Stroke Centers with facilities for acute care, like acute stroke units.

Dr. Cuanang explains that an ideal stroke team is composed of neurologists, neurosurgeons, stroke nurses, cardiologists, rehabilitation experts and vascular specialists. Stroke units specialize in acute stroke care. It is demonstrated in many studies that patients taken care of in these units have better outcome—meaning there are less deaths, and they have shorter hospital stays.

The SSP is encouraging its members to help initiate the creation of stroke centers in all the regional hospitals in the Philippines to serve the stroke victims, and to promote prevention strategies to lessen the incidence of brain attack in the country. It will hold its annual convention at the Bethel House in Dumaguete City on Aug. 20-22.

BUSINESS

DTI orders inspection of garments for export

By Michelle V. Remo

THE DEPARTMENT of Trade and Industry has ordered an intensified inspection of garments geared for export.

The order came after the Garments and Textile Export Board (GTEB) discovered 23 companies in the process of transshipping or exporting $8 million worth of imported pants using Philippine quota.

Transshipment involves the exportation of goods, using Philippine quota, that are declared to be locally made but are in fact made in other countries. The activity is considered illegal because it results in lost business opportunities for legitimate exporters.

In the case of the 23 companies, the products that they had tried to tranship allegedly came from China and were geared for export to Europe.

ROXAS

Trade and Industry Secretary Manuel Roxas II told the GTEB to closely coordinate with the European Commission to stop the transshipment deals between Philippine and European trading partners.

Roxas specifically ordered the GTEB, together with the European Commission, to conduct a stricter verification of trading documents and monitoring of dubious trading transactions. The GTEB was also instructed to work with the foreign commission in taking necessary legal actions against erring firms.

"The government has been helping garment exporters increase business with foreign buyers by assuring them that all Philippine-made products comply with international standards, particularly on social responsibility. But cases of transshipment negate these efforts," said Roxas in a statement.

During its recent investigation, GTEB found altered trading documents and fake export licenses being used by firms suspected of engaging in transshipment. GTEB said it would file charges against the said companies.

RP urged to adopt open-skies policy

By Abigail L. Ho

MORE economic benefits will come the Philippines' way if the government will liberalize its aviation sector, New Zealand's envoy to the Philippines Terry Baker said.

"The opportunities are there, open up your airline routes, open up your trade routes and your economy can grow," he said in a recent aviation forum at the Asian Institute of Management Policy Center.

Baker said the Philippines was the last member-economy of the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (Apec) that New Zealand did not have a bilateral air service agreement with.

Unlike New Zealand, which has adopted a very liberal stance on civil aviation, the Philippines remains prudent in opening its skies to other countries' air carriers.

Just last month, air talks between the Philippines and the United States bogged down as the Philippine air panel refused to grant seventh freedom to American carriers.

Seventh freedom refers to the right to carry traffic between two foreign countries with no connection to the home country. With American carriers having this, they will be no different from local carriers.

During the air talks, the Philippine panel raised the issue of the constitutional hurdle in granting seventh freedom to foreign carriers.

Under the Constitution, an airline is considered a public utility and, therefore, it must be at least 60-percent Filipino-owned.

Foreign airlines servicing Philippine routes cannot just fly to any destination in the world when taking off from Manila or any other Philippine gateway. A US flag carrier, for example, could not take off from Manila and then bring traffic to Tokyo.

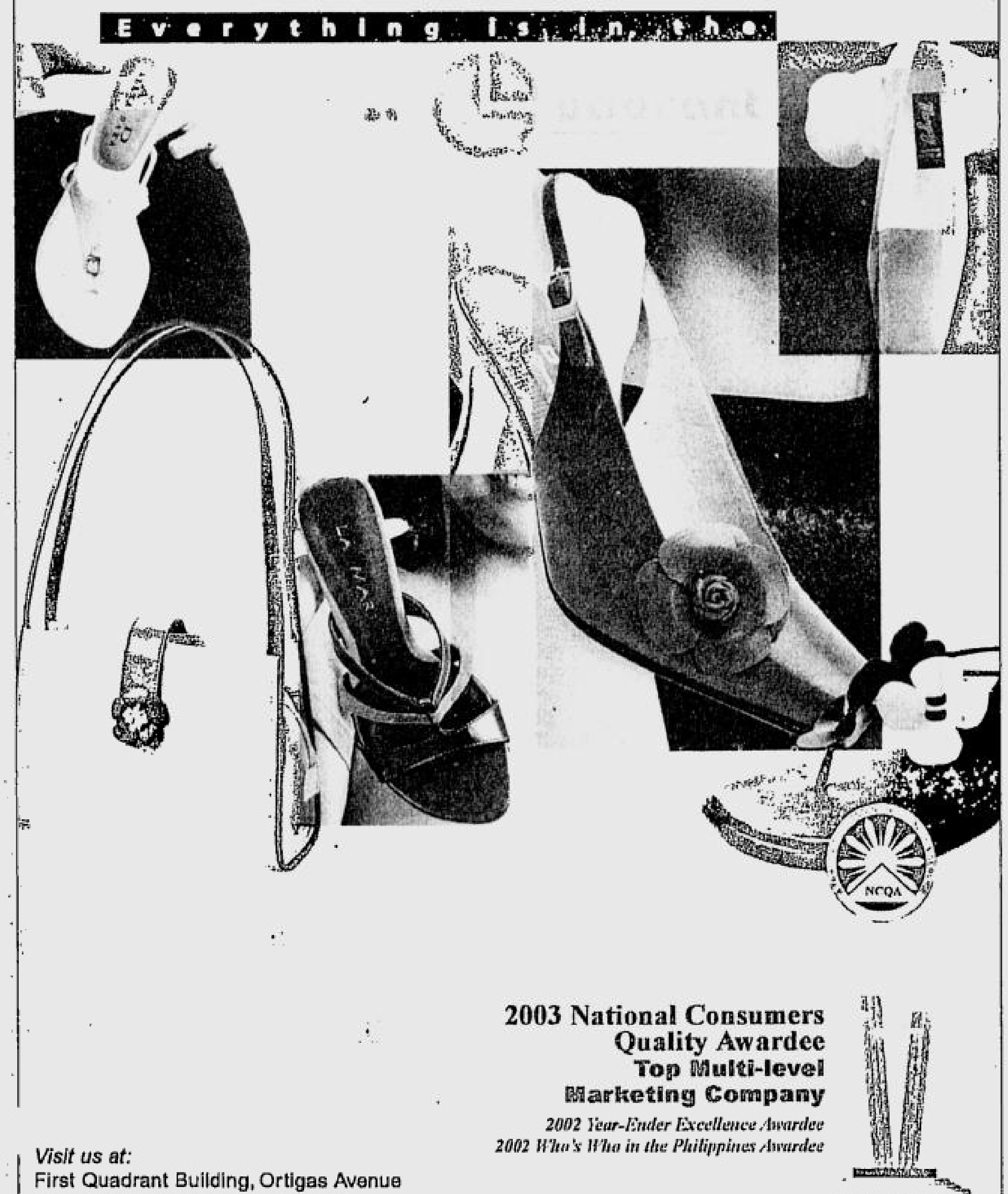
Philippine and US flag carriers are currently allowed to operate 36 flights a week each between the two countries. This was based on a 1995 memorandum of understanding that will expire on Sept. 30.

This MOU was signed to give local carriers a chance to become competitive. The 1982 agreement did not put any limitations on flight frequencies.

Baker cited New Zealand as an example of a country that had benefited from an open-skies agreement with the Unite States.

"We have open skies agreement with the US. It's working very well and it has brought increased flexibility, and the consumer and the economy are the ones benefiting from that," he said.

Flag carrier Air New Zealand was expected to post at least $200 million in profit at the close of its fiscal year in July.



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Saving RP marine life

By Ernesto M. Ordoñez

COMMENTARY

BECKY Pestano Smith is in her early 50s. She took up scuba diving in 1970 and loved it. But in 1986, she quit because she did not want to see the continuing degradation of coral reefs and marine life. In an effort to help bring back what she used to see, she now works as an adviser on Coastal Resource Management (CRM) for the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR).

Nestor Escara is in his late 30s. As a student majoring in fisheries, he saw the deterioration of the fishery sector. He joined the Department of Agriculture (DA) as a contractual employee and is now an adviser in Region 11 for the DA's Fisheries Resource Management Project (FRMP).

Nitoy Ordoñez , my son, is 10 years old. He has just finished his swimming and snorkeling lessons. He looks forward to scuba diving, and wonders if the work of Ms Smith and Mr. Escara will allow him to see the bountiful marine life Ms Smith saw when she first started scuba diving. He also wonders whether this will have an impact on the poverty that his best friend says is the cause of his friend's family going abroad for a better life.

The situation

The Philippines has more than 7,000 islands, 150 million hectares of marine life and a coastline of 17,640 kilometers, even longer than that of the United Sates. Nora Ganolo says, "This rich fishing ground is normally correlated with high fishing yield. But more and more fishers say they are catching less and less fish and that the average catch per fisher has been, on the whole, sadly decreasing."

Ms Ganolo was a participant in the National Fisheries Resources and Assessment Conference that was attended by approximately 100 fishery experts, marine scientists, fishery development researchers and planners. It focused on seven of the most critical bays and gulfs in the country: Lingayen Gulf in Region 1; Puerto Princesa Bay and Honda Bay in Palawan, Region 4; Sapian Bay in Region 6; Gingoog Bay in Region 10; Davao Gulf in Region 11, and Butuan Bay in Region 1.

Findings and recommendations on key intervention areas were discussed: water quality, over-fishing, degraded coastal habitat, and unregulated mariculture.

For water quality, Maria Lourdes McGlone summarized the oceanographic findings. The high chloroform in marine waters was largely caused by human wastage, a factor associated with the increase in the coastal community population. The high level of lead, calcium, mercury, and copper was correlated with the pollution caused by industrial waste and agricultural run-offs. Over-fishing refers to the harvesting not only of unreasonably high volumes of fish but also of juveniles (young fish) and non-target species. In Butuan Bay, seven out of 13 commercially important species are above the maximum fishing levels. In the Davao Gulf, eight preferred species are already over harvested.

Coastal habitats are the fishes' spawning ground and food source. Many mangroves have been logged over. Coral reefs have been damaged by illegal fishing and the use of dynamite and cyanide. Siltation is widespread. In Sapian Bay, siltation has caused the water level to be only a few meters above the surface. This is due to the heavy logging in the upland areas and the conversion of mangroves into ecologically inappropriate uses. Unregulated mariculture endangers the future generation's use of the country's fishery resources. For the Davao Gulf, Nygiel Armada suggested a temporary 16-percent drop in fishing just to sustain the level of production. It was suggested that illegal fishing be severely penalized and that the fishermen's registration as well as quotas for licensing permits be instituted.

Coastal Resource Management.

While these problems were addressed at the assessment conference, a comprehensive solution to these same problems was discussed extensively at the "Mayors' Asia Pacific Environmental Summit." This is Coastal Resource Management (CRM), defined as "comprising those activities that achieve sustainable use and management of economically and ecologically valuable resources in the coastal area."

Its objectives are socioeconomic (i.e., reduction of poverty among coastal communities) and environmental (i.e., rehabilitation of degraded habitats, regeneration of depleted resources). Its approach is integrated, participatory, and community based.

The mayors responded very favorably to the CRM approach. From the mayors' own experiences, two major lessons learned were identified by Elvira Ablaza, Primex president: the lack of a central focus and fragmentation of functions with overlapping authorities; and inadequate enforcement capability, political will, and coordination with the affected communities.

Recommendations

Firstly, Congress should provide additional resources to the DA and the DENR to help implement the CRM approach. This is especially because more than half of our municipalities (i.e., 854) are coastal. Secondly, the mayors of these municipalities, with the support of their governors, should exercise their role as the central force in CRM. They should lead in coordinating and integrating the coastal work of the different government and non-government organizations, thus addressing the two main deficiencies identified at the Mayors' summit. Finally and most importantly, the coastal residents should become empowered transformative communities to ensure that their elected leaders fulfill their mandate in responsible coastal management. Perhaps then, thanks partly to the efforts of people like Ms Smith and Mr. Escara, Nitoy can look forward to scuba diving, and his best friend no longer has to go abroad for a better life.

(The author is chair of Agriwatch, a private sector initiative, former undersecretary of the DA and DTI and chair/secretary, Presidential Flagship Programs and Projects. For inquiries or suggestions, e-mail agriwatchphil@yahoo.com or telefax 02-8516635)

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Coco oil exports seen up

THE GOVERNMENT on Thursday revised its forecast of coconut oil exports this year to 1.06 million tons from 920,000 tons, up from 954,207 tons in 2002.

But Danilo Coronacion, administrator of the state-run Philippine Coconut Authority, said that the average export price of the country's coconut oil might fall to $385 per ton CIF in the second half of 2003 from $434 per ton CIF in the first half due to ample stocks of alternative oils.

The Philippines, the world's largest exporter of the commodity, is likely to export 1.4 million tons of coconut oil next year because of an expected rise in the production of copra, Coronacion said.

The country's output of copra, dried coconut meat from which oil is extracted, is forecast to rise to 2.4 million tons in 2004 from 2.148 million this year, Coronacion said. *Reuters*

ÉLAN
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
Editor **Marge Enriquez**

SATURDAY, AUGUST 9, 2003 C1

Copy Editor **Emmie G. Velarde**
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Sweet fruit of friendship

Joe Salazar's retrospective is born of years of precious interactions

By Marge C. Enriquez

GENUINE relationships are hard to come by.

After many years, rifts and tensions can still break out like tremors along an earthquake fault line, given shallow emotional roots. Rare are solid friendships that are the fruits of maturity and generosity of spirit. An illustration of this is designer **Joe Salazar's** ongoing retrospective exhibit at the ELJ Communications Center.

More than just a homage to his artistry as creator of timeless gowns for the country's most glamorous women, it is also a celebration of his close ties with the private sector and the press, as represented by **Ben Chan,** CEO and creative director of Suyen Corporation, and **Thelma San Juan,** general manager of ABS-CBN publishing. Chan, Salazar's best friend for 28 years now, has been very supportive. San Juan, who has always been held in awe by designers for her hard-nosed approach and flair in fashion journalism, has diligently chronicled Salazar's career (along with Star's Lifestyle editor **Millet Mananquil** who is Joe's closest friend from media). Her Metro Magazine has organized this homage with Chan's Bench as a major sponsor, and the INQUIRER and the Lifestyle Network as media partners.

They all share a common trait—putting other people's interests before their own. This is one of the reasons that they are well respected in their fields, and their friendship has spanned nearly three decades. Their selflessness is an outpouring of the spirit without expecting anything in return. Intuitively, they know that the happiness they give from their hearts today will reflect back on them tomorrow.

Beyond companionship

Salazar recalls that he first met Chan through a common friend, RTW pioneer Rusty Lopez. Their kinship went beyond company, sharing of ideas and activities, into an assurance of sharing a line of encouraging communication, and keeping that line open.

Salazar recalls that when his father, **Juanito Salazar,** died in 1978, Chan readily pitched in for the funeral expenses. When he held his first solo fashion show at the Philippine Plaza, Chan produced it, even if the both of them were neophytes. Although the show met setbacks due to their inexperience, they were not seriously affected and, instead, took it in stride. When Chan needed a traveling companion, he would take care of Joe. In the past few months, Salazar has been suffering the side effects of chemotherapy after his bout with throat cancer. Last February, the concerned Chan brought Salazar to St. John the Baptist Hospital in Hong Kong for consultation and treatment.

Salazar reciprocated Chan's generosity by being the sympathetic friend. Chan would run to him whenever he had personal problems. Since the designer was five years older, he gave Chan the benefit of his own experience.

Close collaboration

Salazar's relationship with San Juan has resulted from years of her attentiveness to him in their interactions, and her flair for dealing with people comfortably and with tact. He says they became close because of this collaboration. For this exhibit, he didn't have to tell Metro what he needed. Known for the assortment of strategies at her disposal, San Juan had everything carefully worked out for him.

The exhibit features evening gowns, ternos and wedding dresses worn. Beyond adjectives that perennially describe Salazar's style as "romantic," "ethereal," "poetic" and "resplendent," his work is in a class of its own. With innate sensitivity to feminine qualities, Salazar has maintained his trademark of picture-perfect gowns in rustling silk chiffon and swathes of electric pleats, ruches and drapes taken in the act of unfurling. He likes to play with the stiffness of the electric pleats that resemble fans, waves or bird wings and to employs the method of boning to capture the spirit of movement. Although meticulously thought-out and rigid, the shapes created by boning—whether it is on the hem, hips, collar or sleeves—are always fluid.

To enhance a woman's curves, he fixes the material in bunches and origami-like folds around the bosom and throughout the skirt. For rail-thin bodies, his ball gowns make use of pannier-drapes or petal sections in the skirt to emphasize the tiny waistline.

In her halcyon days, former First Lady Imelda Marcos thought that her designer *du jour* epitomized elaborate embroidery and beadwork—until she spotted Salazar, whose delicate and matte beadwork resembled abstract paintings when viewed from afar. His handiwork was more fastidious, precise and intricate, and he favored Austrian crystals and rhinestones.

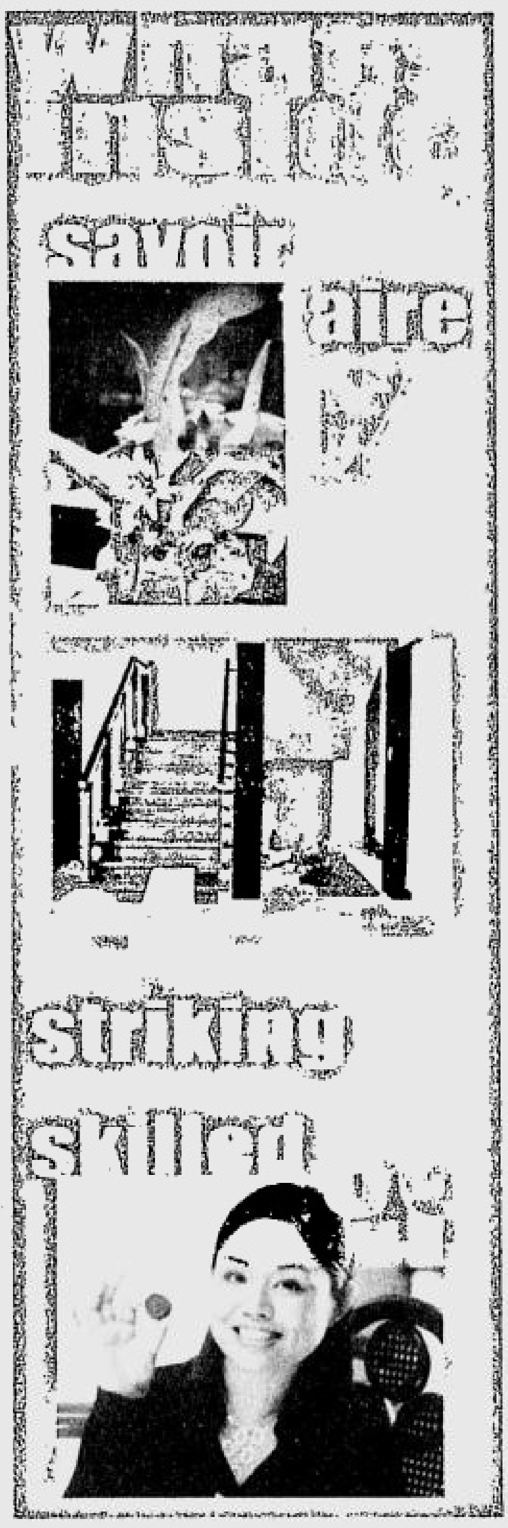
To this day, Salazar's punctilious beadwork and appliqués are unequalled. He can work at a single design for months—always perfecting, always striving toward his vision.

"*Hindi puwede sa akin yung tama na iyan* (To say, 'that's enough' would not do for me)," he declares.

Groaning table

On his second day at work back from a mandatory diet, ÉLAN twisted **Amando Doronila's** arm into joining the Chefs' Table at the Makati Shangri-La. As you know, our political columnist and food cognoscente suffered a stroke last summer and had to watch his food

SWEET/ C3



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Creatin Heaven Now

ALTHOUGH international events seem distant, they still influence us in one way or another. They challenge, sometimes compromise, our state of mind, alarm us or give us reason to vent frustration.

To remain stable, we need to see the larger picture and adjust our perspective vis a vis all human beings' journey together as one family.

There is one universal law that has been taken for granted many times too often: Everything new becomes old. Accepting this inevitable passage of time from new to old practically guarantees a new mindset.

In the beginning of history, man's consciousness was pure and positive. As the years passed, the degree of this purity slowly but surely diminished. Through the ages, sorrow and discord multiplied, starting out man on a search for meaning and purpose, through science and religion.

In the past century, the greatest darkness swept over human affairs. Despite the fact that the world seems to progress in terms of technology, human behavior and relations have gone an all-time low. These are symptoms of man's loss of spiritual power and his inability to live in pure friendship.

Armaggedon

While more and more separatist nations on the planet emerge as we move into the third millennium, the pressures of interdependence among them are considerable: shrinking resources should be shared to keep humanity alive. There is never enough aid from advanced countries to take care of everyone else.

With the advent of atomic weaponry and germ warfare, even geographically smaller countries have become a threat to the larger ones. Arsenals may vary in size, but their ability to maim and devastate are equally potent. Studies show that the very manner in which the wind blows during an atomic explosion could endanger the entire planet.

In this millennium, we can expect more unprecedented strife, terrorist activities and a complete breakdown of structures, systems and relationships that have been built on the lowest form of consciousness that feeds on materialism and greed. The interminable confrontations between the Palestinians and Israelis, the controversial war in Iraq and mounting nuclear threats will continue with Pluto still in Sagittarius (1986-2008). This could be the Armaggedon that prophets have long foretold.

Pluto (source of the term "plutonium," a radioactive metallic element needed to make a nuclear warhead) being where it is, some adventurous countries might as well self-destruct. This shouldn't be hard to imagine, with Nature itself reacting to decades of human violence and abuse, as we can all see. This abysmal state of affairs is definitely the result of man's own doing.

In the past year, the astrological transits that I have done for individuals have been as turbulent as the chart of the whole country: Uranus (sudden change) and Neptune (mystical union with the Divine) start clashing with Saturn (conservatism) or Pluto (internal transformation). These planetary influences are making us aware of the importance of time in relation to the larger picture.

There has been the presumption that time moves in a straight line. Yet, there is indisputable proof that time moves in a cycle—for example, the movement of the day from dawn to dusk, and the repetition of the seasons with almost absolute consistency.

Comprehending this cyclical nature of time and change and the law that everything new becomes old, will enable people to understand society's disintegration today.

Transition

We are now in the Age of Aquarius, the zodiac sign that symbolizes humanity and governs the circulatory system of the human organism. Its energy flows like a circuitous River of Time, whose passage is not always smooth, running as it does over boulders and through crosscurrents. Thus, Aquarius also depicts the cycle of time. The passage of Uranus through Aquarius takes eight years, and after 84 years the cycle repeats.

A blockage in the circuit, if not checked, could mean a sudden stop of the life energy. As the ruler of the bloodstream, Aquarius also historically represents rivers of blood flowing into European soil, or wars during the transits of Uranus, including the time of World War I.

In the Aquarian context, this is a transition period when the night of human affairs meets the day of the change of consciousness (Pluto), and the shift from one cycle into the next brings about extreme and sudden change (Uranus).

Uranus (technology) in Aquarius also signifies breakthroughs in science. Quantum physics will change perceptions of space and time. It will banish people's fear of death, a fear born of the linear concept of time and the belief that the death of the body leads to a void. Science will prove that what really happens is, we enter a continuity of being.

Birth and Death will become meaningless words. In a dance of stillness, out of time and out of space, there is an extraordinary manifestation that takes us beyond the limits of our physical world, straight into the heart of the soul, which is love.

In almost every scripture and legend, there are extensive references to time. After the Big Bang comes Paradise, a time—yes a time, not a place—when the world is renewed. Pluto serves as the great balancing and healing force of the universe. Astrology tells us that the world will inevitably undergo a physical and spiritual cleansing process.

Nature and wars will clean up the earth, and clear it of inhabitants who have lived in greed, lust and aggression. Only a minority will remain that will help restore this Utopia with the help of scientists.

Natural resources will be virginal and abundant. Enlightened leaders in business and finance will use money and natural resources to rebuild infrastructure destroyed by wars. Industries will be set up to benefit the greater good.

Wealth will grow easily, because it will be used for the greater collective. In world economics, measures to help improve the welfare of the poor, upon the influence of planets with higher frequencies (Pluto, Neptune and Uranus) will be implemented by international banking institutions. Governments will have a clear population policy that will be supported by an adequately funded action program.

There will be a new generation of highly evolved human beings. Because of their purity, they will have psychic powers that they will use to control matter and communicate with each other. Thousands of years of universal peace will ensue, and the world's population will at last live like one family.

Our effort

In sum, Armageddon has "visited" the Earth. Henceforth, every act of violence will be met head-on by the forces of Heaven, as Heaven or a Utopian world is being created on earth at this very moment. The "warriors for peace" are winning the battle with weapons of spiritual light, compassion and forgiveness.

Transformation within ourselves must occur to bring about the dawn of a new age. We can be among these warriors that mold a better future if we use every moment in a worthwhile way through positive thoughts and actions.

Focus on what is right with our world, instead of what is wrong. We can start by making it a practice now to see the good in those around us, and offer words of encouragement and loving support at every turn, in any way possible. We could be the ones to lead humanity into the shining new world of tomorrow.

For feedback email solhaus@mindgate.net

INTRAMUROS, INTRAVENOUSLY

By Martin Valdes, *Contributor*

It is not the walls that make a city, but the people who live within them.

AS evidence, take a quick glance at some of the world's most famous walls—sense anxious architects behind the structures.

In mortal fear of being invaded by a country just a fraction of its geographical mass, China constructed a partition so massive it not only amused the Mongol hordes, it guaranteed future fame as the only man-made structure visible from outer space and something that David Copperfield could incorporate into his magic act.

In post-war Germany, the suspicious victors soon realized they could not stand the other side's ideologies (or vodka), and erected a wall right down the middle of Berlin, forecasting the socio-political climate of the Cold War, and making Tom Clancy and Robert Ludlum very wealthy men. Even the Bible has got a good one, with the choir of Israel teaching the citizens of Jericho what "bringing down the house" was all about.

It would be safe to assume that whoever thought of building Intramuros was pretty nervous as well. In 1571, Miguel Lopez de Legazpi established the city of Manila at the mouth of the river Pasig, encasing his gem in a coat of stone. Intramuros (literally, "within the walls") remained the seat of Spanish colonial power in Asia until 1898.

Cobbled streets, churches that sported polysyllabic names of saints, Spanish-style houses, ramparts, drawbridges and balustrades still exist, testament to 300 years of Spanish occupation. Intramuros was designed as a fortress-capital, hopefully to discourage anyone from seizing the city, which served as the colony's political, cultural and commercial center.

Paranoia was justified given that a majority of the locals, feeling that the Spaniards had overstayed their welcome by a little under three centuries had, on several occasions, "voiced" their concerns. They thanked the colonizers for the *paella*, but wondered aloud if they could soon have their country back.

Ultimately, the walls of Manila proved insufficient resistance. The Americans arrived in 1898, subdued the Spaniards with their cannons, and added a few minor touches to Intramuros. Thanks for the golf course, President McKinley.

New sites

Symbolically, walls not only provide protection; they can also represent subjugation. Walking around Intramuros, I can't help but feel uneasy knowing that on these uneven streets that I now tread, blood once flowed copiously. Fort Santiago is notorious as the scene for various atrocities committed against Filipinos by both Spanish and Japanese forces.

The Intramuros of today celebrates this history. Reconstruction and restoration continues within and beyond the walls. Several sites have been transformed into recreational parks and performance venues, among them Puerta Real and Baluarte de San Diego.

Art galleries, bars, and restaurants now line the streets. There's even a cyber café, just to piss off purists. Manila Cathedral and San Agustin Church, having withstood earthquakes, storms, several wars, and centuries of people urinating on their outer walls, now defy vandals brandishing spray paint. Fort Santiago is a lush park where people go to feed pigeons, bask in the sun, or catch a *calesa* ride. Dr. Rizal would have approved.

While Makati remains the center of cosmopolitan nightlife, and Malate commands respect as the most diverse scene in Metro Manila, Intramuros is quite content to keep its nocturnal community intimate. Sure, there isn't quite the same range of choices as in the first two areas, but neither is there the congestion of Nakpil, or the rampaging hordes of Makati Avenue. The restaurants in Intramuros are cozy and congenial, many of them with outdoor tables for those who enjoy moonlit dinners and reciting clever line like, "The light of that star over there was actually emitted about the time of the construction of this city."

In a bar where I had *sisig*, about a dozen people were inside drawing their beer from kegs! And then half the populace got up on stage to perform and the other half sang along. There is a sense of quiet unity here that refuses to be interrupted by what is fashionable according to those who dwell in Extramuros.

The best illustration is Sanctum Unmasct, a venue that defies definition, built right into one of the walls of Intramuros, as though to affirm its allegiance to a concept through proximity. Here is a bar cum performance pad that hosts various activities, from live jam sessions to poetry readings, the occasional private party and dating game. Oh yeah, they also have board games for the less aurally inclined. For many of its regulars, Sanctum feels like coming home. In fact, the Intramuros nightlife as a whole—Insouciant, relaxed and sometimes kitschy—is a refuge for people weary of taking life too seriously.

This awakened 'History Town' could well be the Philippine archipelago's heart

Oh, wow!

As an added incentive, the Department of Tourism has selected Intramuros as a site of a very ambitious project. WOW Philippines is a marketing onslaught promoting the best that our country has to offer and targeting both locals and foreigners. As "History Town Philippines," Intramuros is set to host several events and expositions meant to showcase as much of the nation as possible. Every month, a different region promotes its own culture and crafts through daily activities that include indigenous games, sketch artists and market stalls for their products.

For instance, until Aug. 15, Region 2 is featuring the world's largest *butaka* (a reclining chair with long arm/leg rests) from Isabela Province. This couch potato's wet dream is 20 feet long and 11 feet tall, and was constructed by about 30 diligent people with obviously way too much free time on their hands. Hey, Shaq, do you need a *butaka*? All around the walled city, various concerts will be held almost every night, barring adverse weather or a military invasion. The music will range from jazz to acoustic, folk and pop.

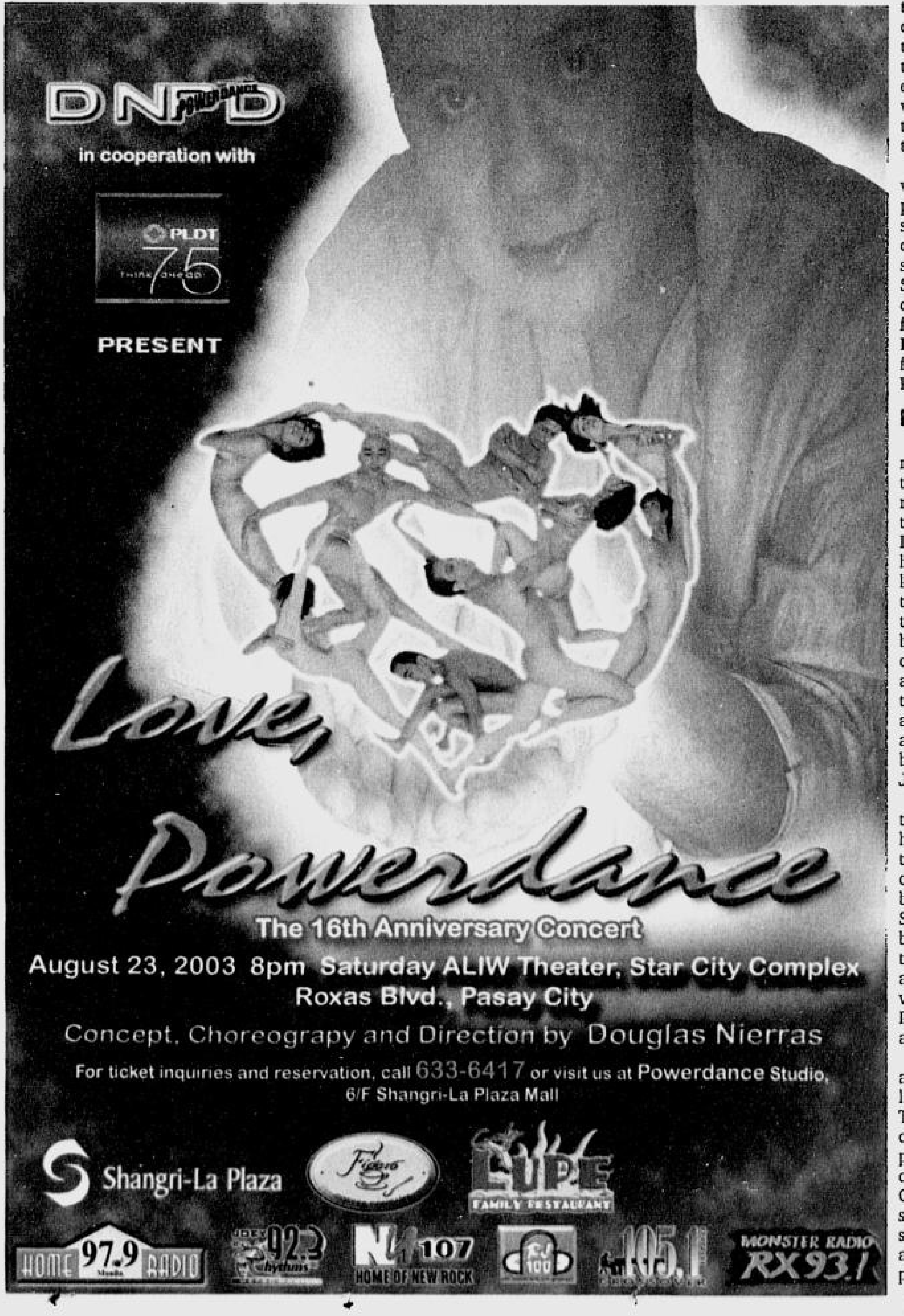
Centerpiece of WOW Philippines Intramuros is the Clamshell. While this may sound like the title of a bad B movie about a mutant crustacean that wreaks havoc on an unsuspecting city, the Clamshell is actually a huge tent shaped like a mutant well, clam ... about to wreak havoc on an unsuspecting city. Within its flaps beats the heart of the regional exhibits.

Free nightly concerts and various promotional stalls entice visitors to explore. The month of August will be shared by Regions II and IX, so expect the tent to teem with merchandise and decorations from these areas. Clamshell II (the sequel starring George Clooney as a suave fishball vendor who saves the city) is still under construction, so I can only guess what goodies that tent will host.

Sing the Body Eclectic

If the Philippines were a human body, corpulent in culture and rich in history, could Intramuros be its heart? After all, it is the heart that retains the essence of achievement and endurance. These walls which, for hundreds of years, stood to repress and prohibit, now turn themselves out in a magnanimous display of accommodation.

As I walk in the crowd, stopping once to buy a cup of *taho*, and taking photographs of resilient buildings, I feel once again that there is blood on the streets. This is not blood violently spilled in eras gone by, but life plasma flowing from ventricle to ventricle, pumping me forward, like a corpuscle within the hallowed, cobbled arteries.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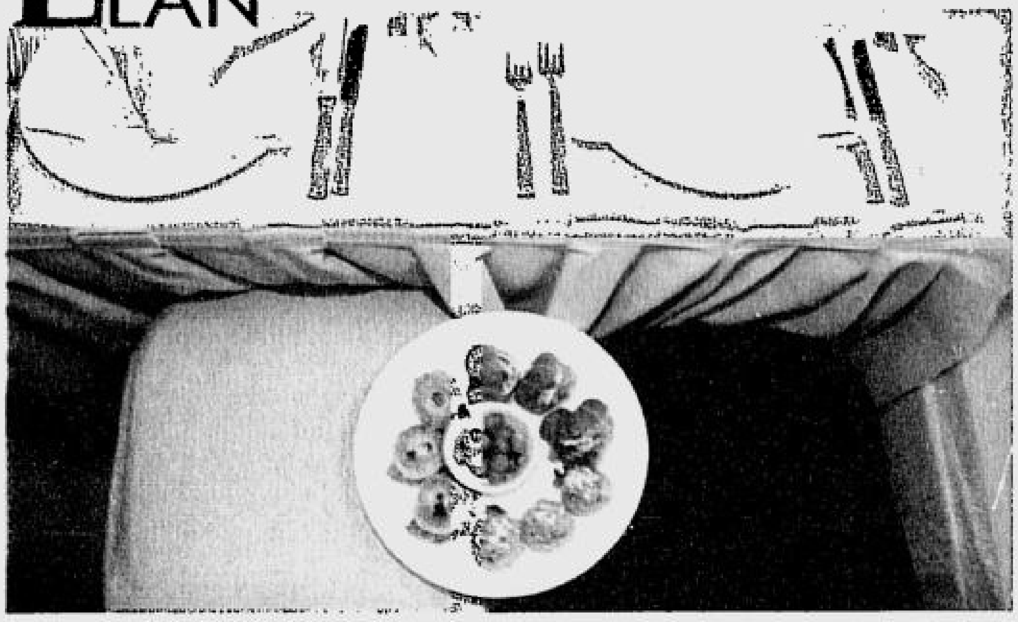
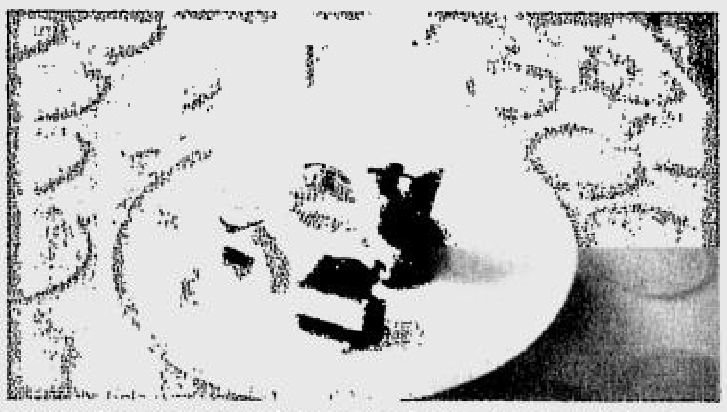


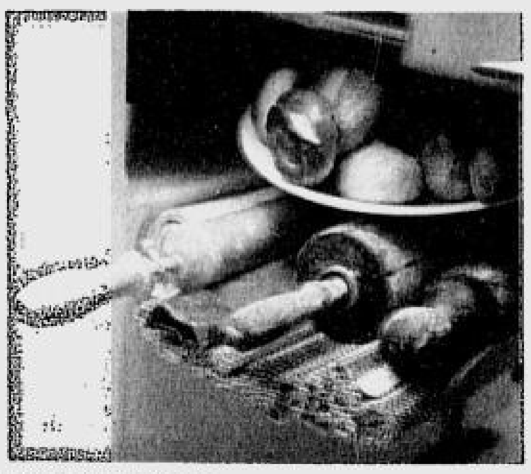
APPETIZING plate of smoked salmon on croissants, tuna salad on a roll, salami with salted pretzel, smoked mozzarella on pan de sal

A guest at the Chefs' Table

By Amando Doronila • Photos by Teddy Pelaez • Pictorial direction by Albert Avellana



DESSERT plate of Ebony, Banana Madeleine, Hazelnut Crúnch with Mousse, and Blood Orange Sorbet to be introduced in Cheval Blanc



OVEN-fresh breads

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Walking into the corridors of the hotel's kitchen, which is like being in the catacombs, reminded me of the advice of that gifted American politician, former President Harry S. Truman: "If you can't stand the heat, get out of the kitchen." The Chefs' Table, set up inside the pastry room of the kitchen, did not live up to expectations, as it was air-conditioned.

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Flagship dishes

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For Shang Palace, there was the traditional Beggar's Chicken, already a favorite in that outlet—a saucy chicken dish inside a shell of dough baked golden brown—and modern dim sum with shark's fin. From Inagiku were soft shell crab roll and vegetable tempura. These were only a small part of the restaurant's repertoire. Appetizers came from Garde Manger and consisted of mini gourmet sandwiches, hickory smoked salmon on croissants, tuna salad on sun-dried tomato roll, salami with salted pretzel and smoked buffalo mozzarella cheese with basic pesto on *pan de sal.*

As we ate, the entire repertoire was being served in the restaurants, with all the ceremony and frills, and the fancy cutlery and embroidered plates. We were also served an assortment of sausages that one normally found in a German deli. This must be the influence of one of the chefs, an Austrian. Dietary restrictions prevented me from tasting all those tempting sausages. Fortunately for me, there was quite a lot of vegetable dishes to choose from.

Spanking clean

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SHANGRI-LA's GM Jarlath Lynch

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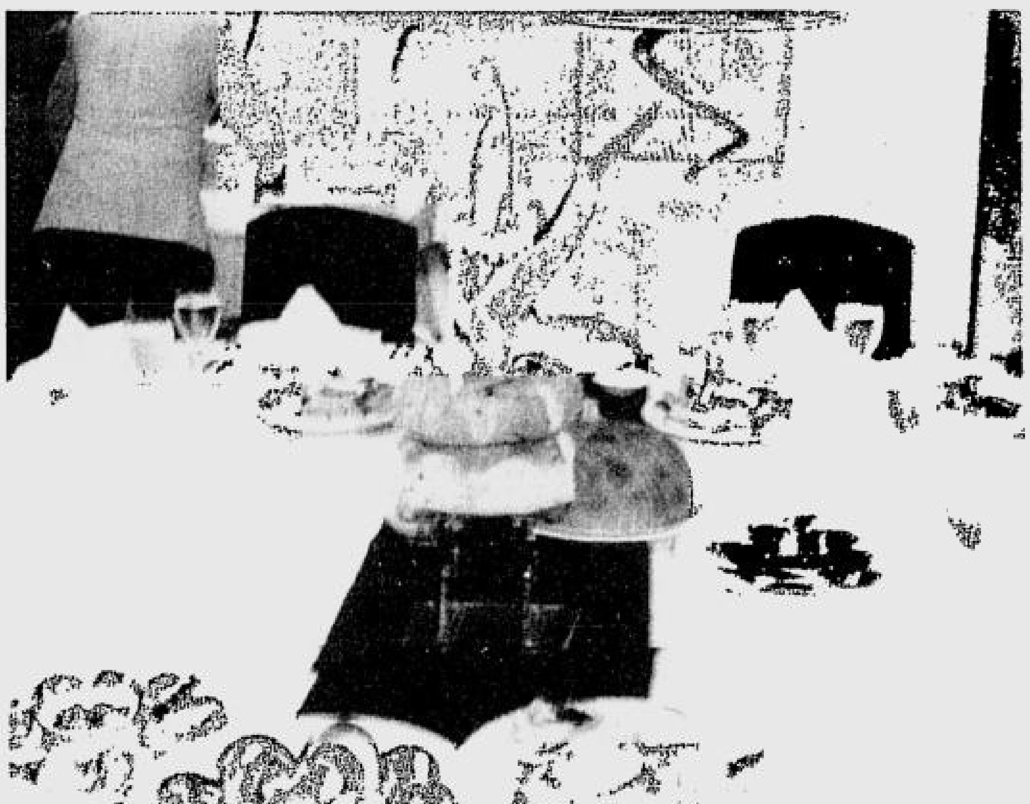

BREADS as centerpiece at the table of bounties.

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Sweet fruit . . .

From page C1

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Romine prepared a vegetarian platter with polenta for me and and mini-vegetable sandwiches. For dessert, I enjoyed the blood orange sorbet served atop a juicy slice of exotic dragon fruit. This seasonal orange has a dark red center, thus the name. The sorbet was luscious with its solid purée, tangy and tarty. It complemented the crunchy carrot cake, loaded with fruit and nut filling, and topped with a fine spread of cream cheese topping.

Meanwhile, I kept an eye on Doro, wondering if he'd survive the groaning table. He was quiet all throughout the meal. I figured that when he's not discussing politics, he's savoring every morsel.

When most of us were leaving, the general manager mischievously pulled me aside and brought me to the hotel's treasure store—the confectionery. There were stacks of fresh pralines waiting to be attacked. We were like kids raiding the cookie jar.

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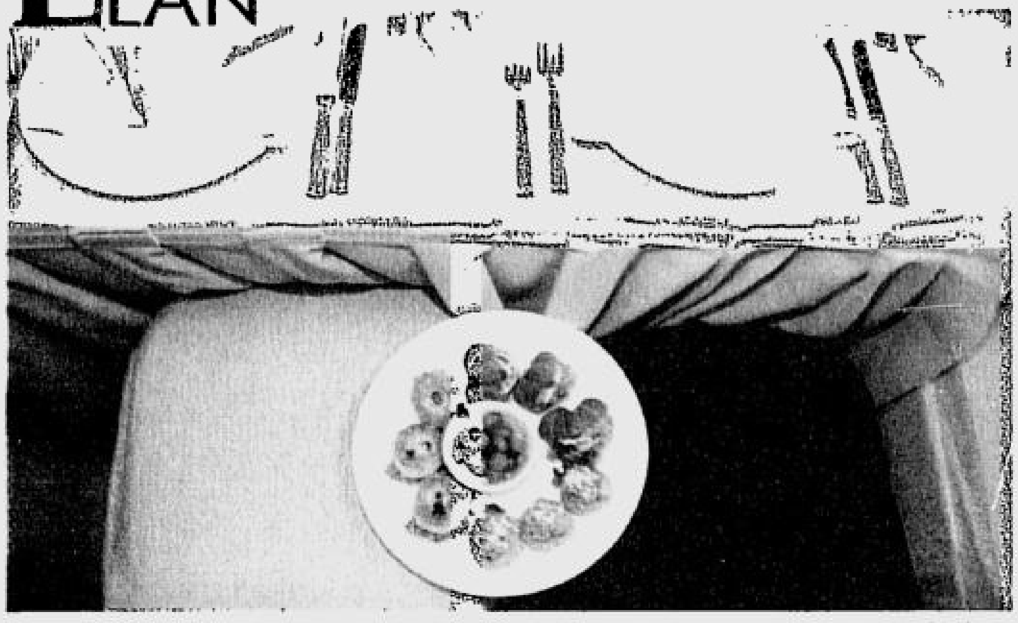

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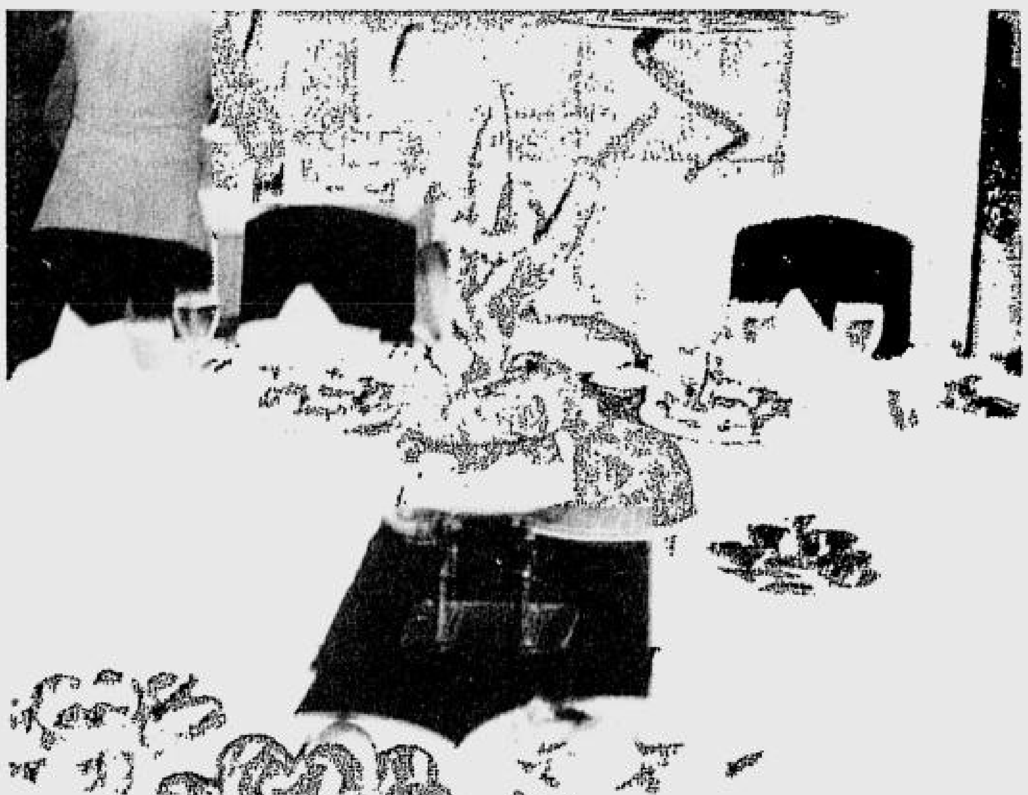

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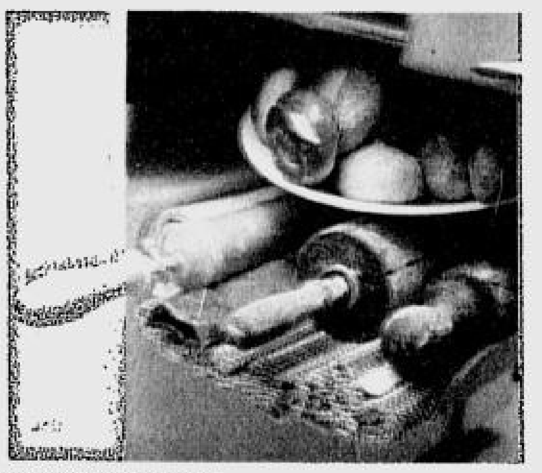

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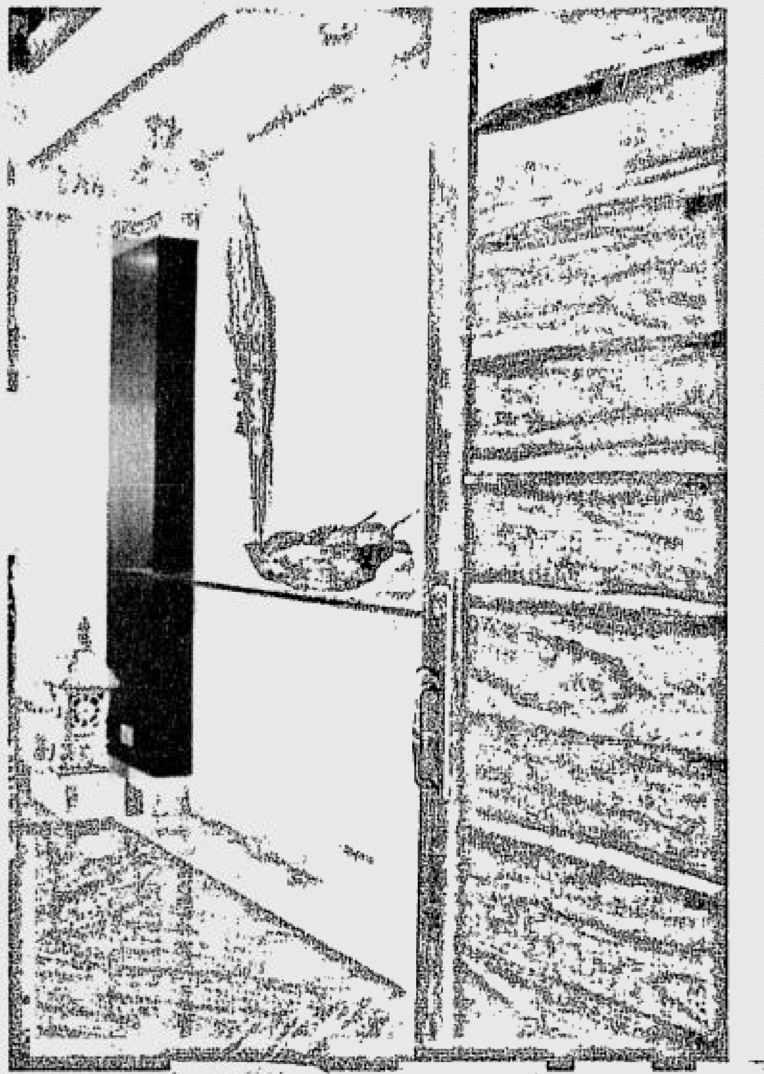
A WOODEN bowl perches on a cantilevered slab of glass at the entry while a limestone house stands guard. The main door is made of *narra*, *dao* and *kamagong*.

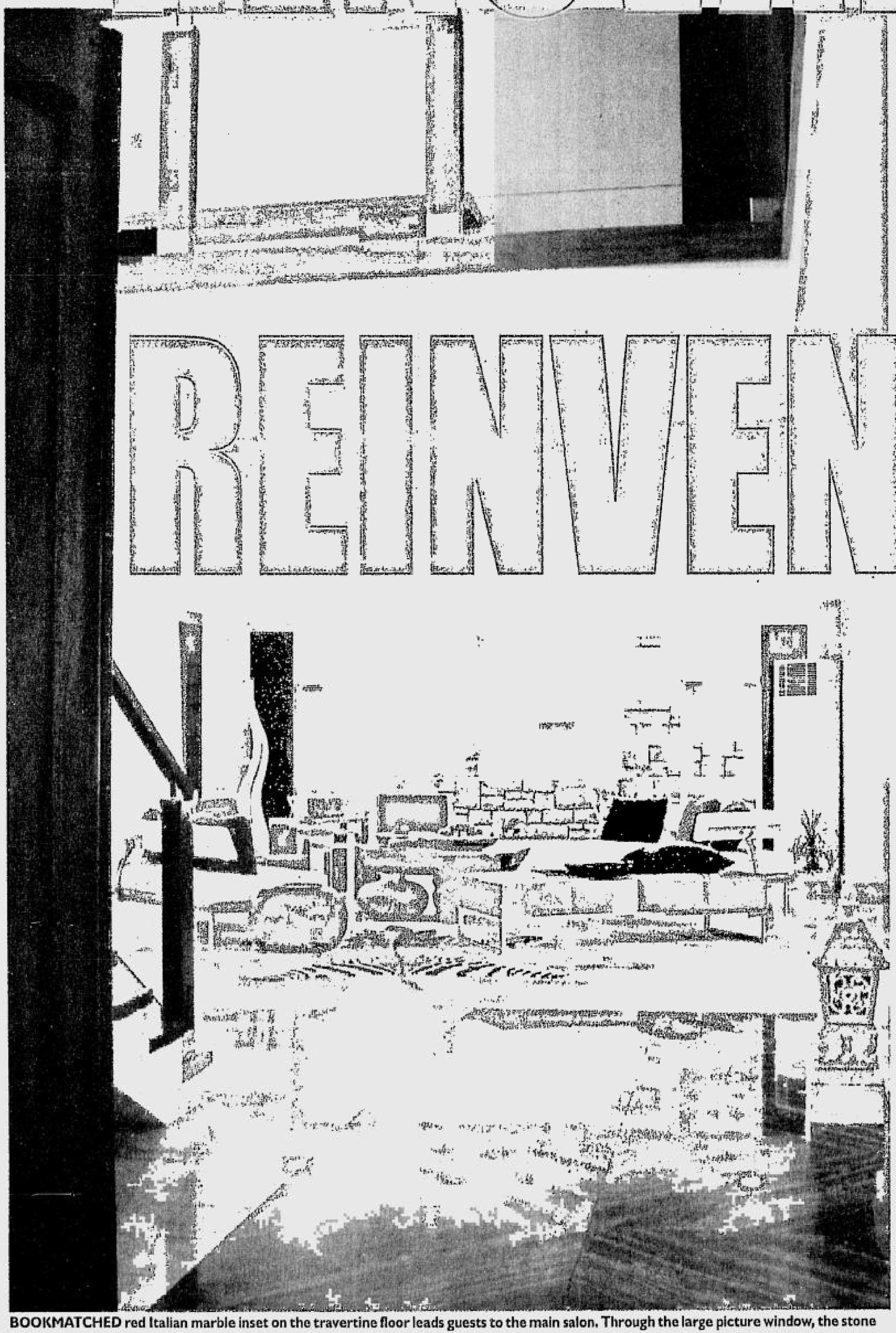


THE NEUTRAL palette is reinterpreted in the lanai. Stone tiles, a glass topped carved teak table base, acacia and leather side chairs harmonize with the metal grill and screen. In the foreground is a biomorphic acacia tabletop.

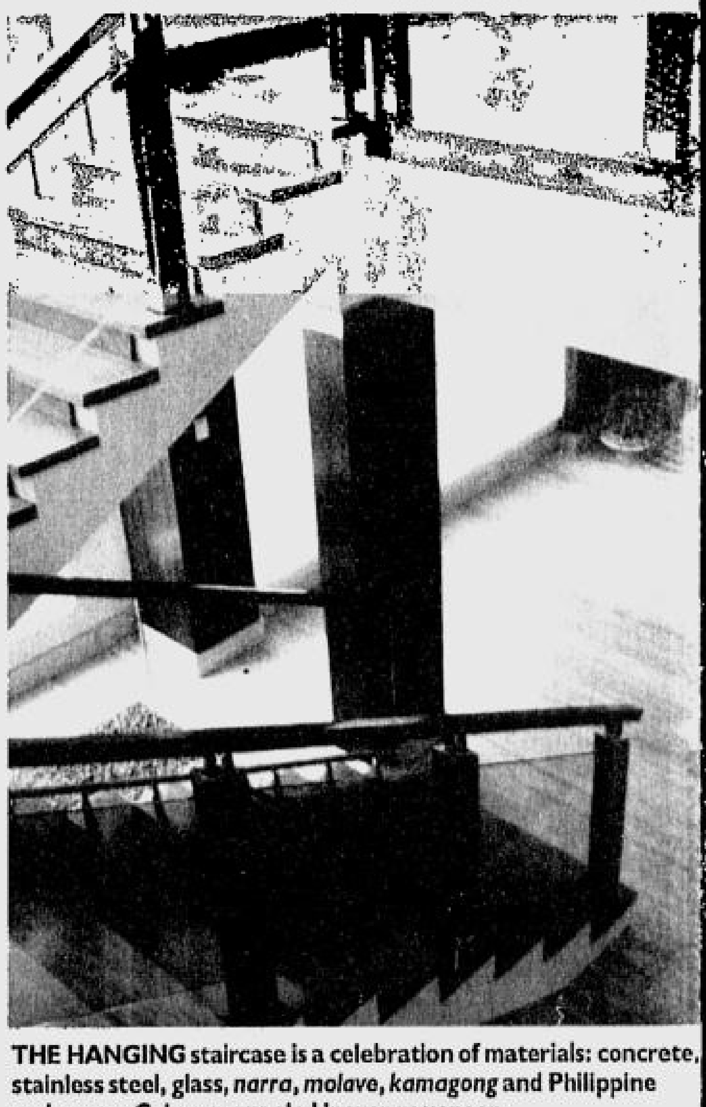
RENOVATION, REINVENTION

Reworking a house he designed for another owner a decade ago, Jim Tan feels he has redefined himself as well

By Meluchi A. Rivera
Contributor
Photos by Bobot Meru
Pictorial direction by Albert Avellana



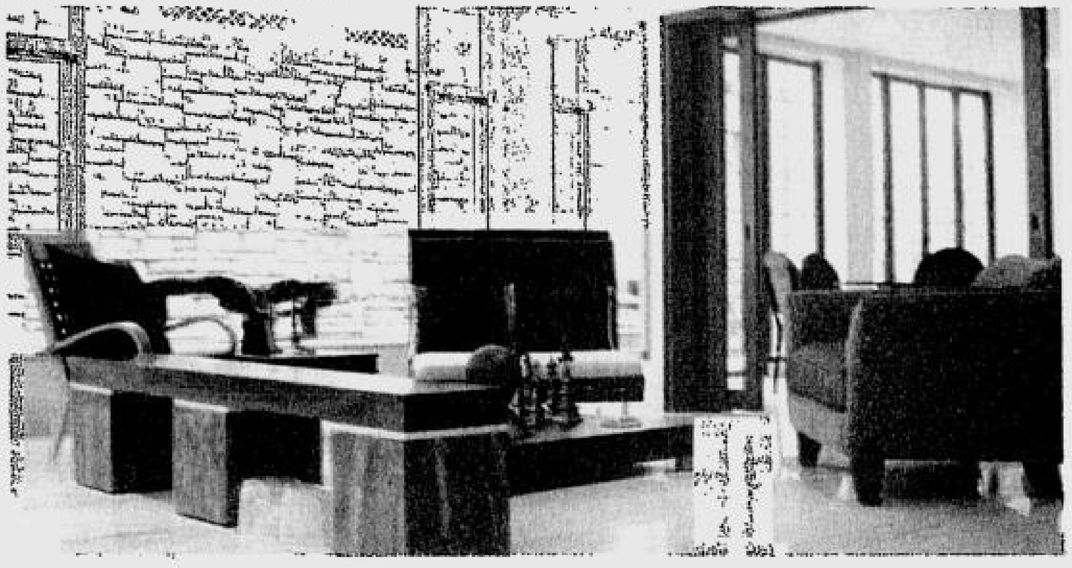
BOOKMATCHED red Italian marble inset on the travertine floor leads guests to the main salon. Through the large picture window, the stone clad wall and minimalist cascade transform the space into an oasis.



THE HANGING staircase is a celebration of materials: concrete, stainless steel, glass, *narra*, *molave*, *kamagong* and Philippine mahogany. Columns are clad in wenge veneer.

THE PROUD owner's serendipitous find, a sinuous three-legged *narra* table takes center stage in the larger conversation area. A bronze bowl cradles mango-wood eggs underneath.

THREE marble cubes and a *narra* slab, a composition by the designer, serves as divider, bench or a display platform. This modular piece defines the smaller lounge with pieces by Budji, Designs Ligna, Design Square and Padua.



WHAT a difference a decade makes! This was what design consultant Jim Tan realized when he renovated this 600-square meter house to fit the needs of its new owners, a low-key businessman and his family. Little did his client know that Tan had also mapped out the home's previous incarnation 10 years ago.

"So I actually renovated myself," Tan says, smiling.

With nary a stroke of sentimentality, Tan worked on the ground floor, which comprised the house's "public" areas: foyer, living room, lanai, formal dining room and kitchen. He opened up the space by installing virtual walls of glass—five large picture windows—to give the illusion of space and height.

Now these panels wrap around two walls of the living room and segue into screened wrought iron French doors in the lanai.

Thus, Tan has created vistas to the manicured garden and the waterscape on the property's eastern wall. Inside, the lanai is separated from the living room via a glass sliding door, a demarcation that is physical, but not visual.

Striking features

The most striking feature of the house's public areas will have to be the two-story foyer. Here Tan has let loose architectural details so strong, that no further ornamentation is needed. There is the main door made of slabs of *dao* wood, framed in *narra* and with strips of *kamagong*.

Then there is the glass and wood staircase, dramatically framed by a picture window, wrought like a piece of modern sculpture; with steps of solid *molave*, balustrades of *tangile*, handrails of narra, and trims of *molave*. To this space Tan has added a dry pond of smooth pebble stones and, opposite the staircase, a "floating" foyer table.

The foyer sets the stage for the living room and lanai, which appear expansive and bathed in light. The area looks much bigger than its actual 120-odd square meters, and the ceiling much higher than its cramped nine feet. Tan succeeds in tricking the eye into looking ever upward, and outward, giving one a sense of being indoors and outdoors at the same time.

Apart from the glass windows, the illusion of space is achieved by painting the interior walls and ceilings in ivory. The rest of the furniture, done in beiges and browns, takes off from the beautiful slabs of Italian travertine marble covering the entire living room floor. The uniformity of palette, save for punches of color from Thai silk coverings on chairs and pillows, makes the house's public area appear seamless.

Local furniture

Not that the individual furniture pieces are bland; on the contrary, the new home is like a showcase of distinctive, modern, mostly Philippine-made pieces.

"We deliberately looked for local furniture," the homeowner explains. "We have so much talent here, and there was a lot (of designs) to choose from. That's where Jim came in; we needed his eye to put it all together."

In one sitting area, a light-colored Padua lounge chair co-exists with a low Budji Layug coffee table in walnut skin, a woven leather two-seater from Designs Ligna, and an armchair upholstered in plush green velvet. At the lanai, a 1995 painting by Tam Austria competes for attention alongside a sofa from the Julian collection, a set of Sazon wooden dining chairs and a quirky single-seater.

"The mix of items is still eclectic enough that the arrangement can accept anything," Tan notes.

There are also a few items from the previous house—more traditional pieces like a grandfather clock and a formal dining set from Lincoln Gerard. Surprisingly, these blend in with the modern pieces brought in more recently (sometimes, the owner admits, after Tan's gentle cajoling).

Yes, even a few "folksy" pieces hold their own, such as the living room's main coffee table, cut from the root of a massive narra tree. The owner picked it out from a roadside stall in Pangasinan. Tan explains: "It's dimorphic in contrast to everything else, which are linear."

Tan may have set the direction for the house's redesign, but he credits the owner's open-mindedness for the success of the project. "This truly was a collaboration between designer and owner. My work is so much easier when the client is open-minded."

That is the designer's role after all: part teacher, part collaborator; and yes, part shrink. It comes with the territory and the process of design or, in this case, of redesign, renovation, and reinvention.

MONOLITHIC mirrored niches line the dining room walls. Frames are veneered in walnut. The refurbished dining set is upholstered in embroidered silk.

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Vanessa Figueroa, heiress at work

WITH Leonidas praline, and wearing Vanafi necklace NAP JAMIR II

NOTHING ventured, nothing gained.

That's the motto of this generation's scions. Boomers were spoiled brats who partied and had jobs for diversion. Many were even content just socializing, sniffing drugs, having affairs, and charging expenses to the family business.

Vanessa Figueroa isn't the typical heiress whose name has boldface status in society pages. The 32-year-old entrepreneur would rather work a job that is worthwhile, something exciting that she can throw herself into.

Figueroa's great-great-grandparents had modest beginnings as *plateros*. Her great grandmother, Zosima Guison vda de Garcia, struck it rich as an entrepreneur. Zosima and her sister went to Belgium to learn more about the jewelry industry and, in the 1920s, went into bigtime importation of diamonds.

Leonarda Dulalia, Figueroa's grandmother, expanded the business to real estate and movie houses. The clan operated Cinema 21 and Galaxy theaters, and Magna Tech editing and dubbing studio. She soon gave up the jewelry business due to eyestrain. To this day, the family maintains its real estate business in Manila.

Living abroad

Vanessa is the only child of Gilda Dulalia and Alberto Figueroa, an inventor. Her parents were separated when she was nine yeas old. After getting a degree in political economy at the University of Asia and the Pacific, she sought wider horizons by studying in Europe.

Figueroa went to France to learn the language and hone her skills in her first love—not surprisingly, jewelry. She enrolled in jewelry manufacturing and design at BJO Formation, recognized by the prestigious Chambre Syndicale. One of her biggest culture shocks was taking the courses in French.

"I would cry at night because I could not understand the lessons," she recalled. With perseverance, she watched television and mingled with the locals to understand the nuances of the language. Always aiming for something new, she went to the High Diamond Council in Antwerp, Belgium and continued studying gemology and jewelry design at the Gemological Institute of America in New York.

And as if those weren't enough, she took up art appreciation courses in Sotheby's in London.

No pressure

Although Figueroa's mother didn't pressure her to work, the heiress felt restless.

She recalled: "Deep down, I was dissatisfied. I thought there must be something more to life than waiting for one's inheritance."

She hoped that happiness could be found elsewhere. She knew by then that it was not in living abroad, but in developing her talents.

As a child, she would pick up a pair of pliers and tweak at her mother's jewelry. She would reassemble the links and stones to create a new piece. Now she started designing her own jewelry, and had them made by *plateros* in Metro Manila. Friends were so impressed with her creations, that they often insisted on buying those that she wore. Then she started getting orders. She established a line called Vanafi, after her initials.

Finding store space was a problem for a virtual unknown like her. She had no connections with the mall management, and had to compete with the long list of applicants.

"At first, I was rejected in all the malls. What was Vanafi? Nobody knew."

She tried her luck as a concessionaire at the Naia terminals. She used her gift of gab to pick up work. "I just waited outside the office of the guy dealing with concessionaires. I told him, why not give a young person her first break? He laughed, and said try another terminal. That was NAIA 2," she said.

Today, Vanafi has concessions at Naia 1, the Centennial Terminal and, soon, at Naia 3. Naturally, the airport clientele is a captured market. Transiting passengers have only three minutes to decide on a purchase. At her stores, Figueroa said, items below $100 are the first to go. Frequent travelers have been impressed enough with her wares to ask if she had stores in the city.

Aside from her own jewelry line, Figueroa also offers items from Spain and Italy, Lalique decorative items and Bernardaud crystal.

Finally, Figueroa has gotten lucky. She will open a Vanafi store at Glorietta 1 next month and at the New Jewelry Exchange Building at the Greenhills Shopping Center in October.

"I am trying to teach Filipinos that there are alternatives to diamonds and pearls. They should not be scared of trying out new materials. Europeans put emphasis on design. At end of the day, it is the creative process that counts," she said. "Sterling silver is one of the best metals. It's malleable, and in its purest state it looks like gold and platinum and it doesn't cost much."

Belgian chocolates

This month, she started selling the famous Leonidas chocolates in a cart at the Activity Center of the Glorietta 4 periphery, in front of Nautica clothing store. She recalled that while in Brussels, she would drop by Leonidas chocolate store on the way to school for her sugar fix. Soon enough, she found out that Leonidas was a cultural icon in Belgium, half the price of Godiva and Le Meson de Chocolat, but of superior quality.

The luscious memories inspired her to import the brand. Despite a lack of background in retail, she managed to talk the principals into venture, explaining to them that she had lived in Brussels and she *knew*. Leonidas chocolates and truffles are flown every week to all points of sales worldwide, to guarantee freshness.

"It will be the cheapest in all of Asia, at $55 per kilo. You can buy a piece for P30 to P50 depending on the weight," she said.

Naive optimism

Like a child at play, Figueroa improvises throughout her life and career. She runs the business by herself, with a little help from the mother company, Zosima Inc., for bookkeeping. Other than that, she conducts negotiations, does the merchandising, packaging, inventory, design, and public relations, and deals with the customs—all by herself. A voracious voyager, she is in her element zipping off from one place to another, whether doing the rounds of her stores or traveling abroad during the buying seasons.

"Many people didn't think I would end up doing what I was doing. They all thought, 'She can't do it.' But my friends said, 'Don't mind them.' I know I can't make everybody happy. I just remain very positive about these things."

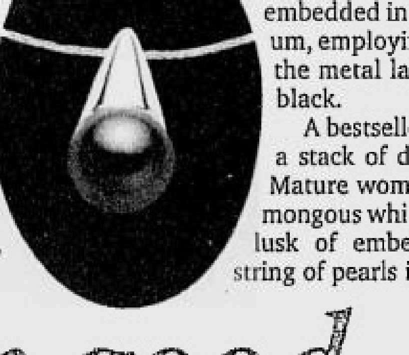
She couldn't be happier, indeed. She can jolt anyone out of the doldrums with her wide, friendly smile, clever observations and naive optimism.

Marge C. Enriquez

In good times or bad

By Marge C. Enriquez

COUP jitters and fluctuating exchange rates are no obstacle to foreign interests in the luxury market. Golay, a Swiss wholesaler of cultured pearls, continues to sell to local jewelers. It is also expanding its business by introducing the Golay Collection at the Hemm Hans Brumann stores. Golay was established in Switzerland over a hundred years ago as a family business. According to Swiss jewelry designer Hans Brumann, it has been selling pearls to the Philippines since he came here 36 years ago.



The Swiss company recently ventured into retail. When Golay launched its collection for the Asian market in China, Brumann was impressed. He decided to bring them over to Hemm Hans Brumann, a jewelry store in partnership with the Ang family, that has a more affordable range. There are branches in Rockwell, Shangri-la Plaza Mall and The Podium. The most expensive item does not go over P50,000. The store offers Brumann's designs as well as Hermés watches. Now the Golay Collection is marketed as the store's premium products. Golay sources its pearls from the best suppliers in the world, and its jewelry is made in Italy.

Superior quality

For his own business, Brumann has been using Golay pearls because of their superior quality. While other pearls have uneven surfaces, Golay's are flawless. They are thick, each with a uniform mantle of nacre, a natural element secreted layer upon layer by the oyster.

Pearls come in an assortment of colors, and hardly ever are there two that are identical in shade. Golay's pearls are known for their perfect uniformity in color and sheen. The light that bounces back from the layers of nacre is very concentrated.

Brumann points out that Golay's initial collection that is launched in the Philippines consists of pieces featuring white and black South Sea pearls set in white and yellow gold, with dainty white diamonds. White and black South Sea pearls are not available in the Philippines. The white variety is cultured in Australia while the black South ones are found in Tahiti.

Brumann adds that Golay has studied varied market tastes and produced a wide range of designs to cater to all kinds of women—from the conservative to the trendy. A white gold necklace made of circles playfully arranged in varying sizes is accented with three black South Sea pearls and pavéd or embedded with diamonds. For the conservative woman, a simple set features a big black pearl in a classic prong diamond setting.

The individualistic woman might want to express her personality via a set of undulating white gold with embedded diamonds and smaller white South Sea pearls. Brumann points out an innovation in the design: perforation beneath the pavéd top. This set of necklace and ring shaped like a bow, and sinuous dangling earrings can be worn from the boardroom to a dressy cocktail party. He adds that the dangling earrings are a current craze, and very salable.

Potential hit

The "Eternel Rhetour" category is a potential hit among Asian women who favor decorative elements. Expectedly, Brumann says, the classic collection, ideal for women of a certain age, is conservative. It has been favored with some innovations, too, however, such as the use of brown diamonds—more affordable than white diamonds and better choices for uniformity in color. These are embedded in white gold and black rhodium, employing a new process that makes the metal last longer by making it look black.

A bestseller is the white pearl set atop a stack of diamond-shaped white gold. Mature women would also favor the humongous white South Sea pearls on a mollusk of embedded diamonds. A classic string of pearls is given a modern twist with crescent-shaped clasps in white gold and pavéd diamonds. These clasps can be used as decorative elements either at the neck or at the nape.

For the trendy, the interesting styles include oval-shaped white and black pearls dangling from rows of gold "bathtub" chains. They come as lariats, bracelets and drop earrings. This collection augurs well for the European market, which prefers minimalist designs to show off high-quality material and craftsmanship, and the beauty of the geometric shapes of metal.

In Europe, the hottest style is a brown leather choker with South Sea pearls on the looped clasps.

Pearl necklaces are stranded with fine steel metal so they don't break, and women have the option to change the clasp if they want variations in design.

Golay's prices range from $400 to $13,000. There are moderately priced styles with smaller pearls and less diamonds, which go for less than $500.

In good times or bad, the jewelry market in the Philippines cannot be underestimated. It has thrived despite a history of coups, economic downturns, spiraling exchange rates and natural disasters.

"Filipinas like to use more jewelry for different occasions," Brumann says with a grin. "They are more appreciative of craftsmanship than European women. They take time to look beautiful—which is why I'm still here."

BOOK REVIEW

Another side of happily ever after

By Cherish Garcia-Hernandez
Contributor

Single Wife
By: Nina Solomon
Algonquin books, 2003

ONE of my closest friends holds a master's degree from one of the best schools in the United States. We shared dreams of conquering the world so I was quite surprised when she announced her engagement while she was still in her early twenties. After all, she lived a privileged life, worked in New York City and, in my eyes, had it all. I wondered what about marriage she found so appealing, that she took the plunge so soon.

Of course my other friends and I eventually took that same inevitable step. For those of us who found suitable mates, there were nods of approval all around. We were following in the footsteps of our parents and their parents. For those who stayed single as they watched their thirties come around, society was not as kind. No matter how successful they were in their careers, this never seemed adequate for others. The much dreaded question—"When are you getting married?"—was asked over and over again. This kind of pressure naturally led to the feeling that one needed a husband in order to be complete.

To many, marriage is the answer to life's questions. As children, it was drilled into our heads that when we grew up, we were to find good jobs, get married and have children. Even fairy tales hinted that it was the only way to live happily ever after. But after the grand wedding and the exotic honeymoon, after you've decorated your new house to perfection, what happens then?

Faking it

Nina Solomon's much talked about debut novel, "Single Wife" gives one answer. The central character, Grace Brookman, wakes up one day to find that her husband Laz, a Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist, is gone. Instead of calling the police or telling friends and family about it, Grace makes up all sorts of excuses for Laz's absence.

She soon becomes consumed in faking things, just to convince everyone that Laz is still around and that their marriage is intact. She sets her alarm to bring coffee every morning to the doorman as was Laz's habit. She sets out two wet umbrellas on rainy days, leaves the toilet seat up, puts his clothes in the laundry hamper, rumples his side of the bed and becomes increasingly creative with her alibis during weekly dinners with her parents. She orders the usual cake and champagne for his birthday, and has a dozen roses sent to herself for their big anniversary dinner, which she celebrates without him.

Grace settles into the routine over the weeks, at times believing the web of lies she herself has spun. Ironically, her non-existent husband's charisma lingers. "Where's Laz?" everyone asks. Groans of disappointment meet Grace at every event she attends alone.

As the reader shares her thoughts, it becomes clear that Grace refuses to give up her role as a wife, feeling that without it she has nothing. For a while it seems she is perfectly content with the status quo. Eventually though, she begins to assert her independence in simple ways, like eating out alone as she comes to terms with who she was before she met Laz.

Disconcerting

There is an evident darkness to the novel, "Single Wife" which makes it enjoyably disconcerting. The incisive and oblique writing is smart, funny, moving and honest. Many critics argue that the story asks for too much suspension of disbelief because no modern, educated woman could be this out of touch with reality. But living in a society and culture such as ours—staunchly traditional, deeply religious, where one is expected to stay married no matter what—makes this scenario more than believable.

I see it happening in varying degrees everyday.

For instance, as Laz' very public career falls apart, Grace and her family seem to think the situation will resolve itself if they simply not talk about it. Too many Filipino families "save face" by pretending their dysfunction is non-existent.

Many Filipino women also choose to turn a blind eye to their husband's philandering, often making excuses for him, just to maintain a semblance of normality. Just like Grace.

What makes "Single Wife" such an engrossing read is the sly humor Solomon has injected into her mysterious inventive tale. Her characters are endearing; they linger in the imagination long after the story ends. The book is not meant to make anyone skeptical about marriage. In fact, I thought that the reminiscences Grace had of happy times with Laz were particularly romantic. Definitely a welcome addition to the new genre known as "chick lit," "Single Wife" is a very well-written and satisfying read, regardless of one's marital status.

E-mail the author at cherishgh@yahoo.com

The vagina secrets

FAQs about that delicate part of us, women

By Ana A.S. Bitong
Contributor

FEMININE wash. To use or not to use? That is the question, especially with reports that many cause dryness, and so women should just use water. But even this is vague, at best. What kind of water? Tap, mineral or Perrier?

This oh-so-important subject has so far eluded women's conversations. We share stories about our new shopping finds—make-up, shampoo, soap, lotion—but never feminine wash. Is it fear of the unknown?

I suppose one of the reasons is the presumption that if you need to pay more attention to the area down there, something must be wrong. Down there? How cute, how politically correct a term. For whom? For those with nothing down there? I decided that, if I was going to write about feminine wash, I must be able to call it as it is: the V-A-G-I-N-A.

What does it need? More important, what does it want?

I had lunch with Lyon Leung and and Wei ping Toh of C.B. Fleet, a US-based pharmaceutical company specializing in the manufacture and marketing of over the counter drugs, cosmetics and toiletries; and Maizie Sycip-Qua of Bloomingfields, responsible for bringing one of the company's top feminine products, "Summer's Eve," to the Philippines. They all felt Filipino women needed to know more about the vagina openly, honestly, without beating around the bush.

Here are the most common questions about the vagina, finally answered:

What causes feminine odor?

Feminine odor is a common condition experienced by women due to vaginal discharge, perspiration, and urinary leakage. Women can apply cornstarch-based feminine powder (no talc) to the external vaginal area to absorb moisture, which is often the cause of itching, odor and chafing.

What is vaginitis?

Vaginitis is a medical term for the infection or inflammation of the vagina. It is generally categorized into non-infectious and infectious vaginitis.

What is non-infectious vaginitis?

Occasionally, women suffer from itching without having an infection. The most common cause is an allergic reaction to soaps, spermicidal products, and chemical irritants.

What is infectious vaginitis?

That which is caused by organisms such as bacteria, yeast or virus.

What is yeast infection?

Yeast infection is caused by a naturally occurring fungus, candida albicans, which lives in the vaginal area. It is usually kept under control by other bacterias. However, a change in the pH balance of the vagina may cause the fungus to overgrow, causing infection.

Several factors are associated with yeast infection, including hormonal changes during pregnancy, use of oral contraceptives and antibiotics. Yeast infection may also occur due to prolonged exposure to moisture, wearing tight clothing, and poor feminine hygiene. Women who have yeast infection often experience intense itching and burning, and painful urination and intercourse. Abnormal discharge in this condition is described as odorless, cottage cheese-like in nature.

What is vaginal dryness?

Vaginal dryness refers to a lack of moisture in the skin of the vulva and the vagina. Symptoms to look out for include mild to severe itching, burning sensation and painful intercourse.

Good hygiene

It was liberating to listen to these women tackle the issues at hand without flinching. They are here to offer women something special called Summer's Eve. They call it the BMW of feminine washes, currently the number one brand in America.

Health researchers say the best insurance against infection is to wash the vulva or external vaginal area daily with plain water, avoiding soaps and salts and vaginal deodorants. Summer's Eve feminine wash is a non-soap, pH-adjusted formula for washing this sensitive external area. Its natural ingredients provide maximum cleansing, yet they are non-irritating or drying. Summer's Eve is a cleanser of odor- causing bacteria. It prevents dryness after use and restores the natural moisture balance in the genitalia. It need not be mixed with water and only a minimum amount is needed per use.

Lab tests have shown that the product is as mild as baby shampoo, with patch tests on 169 subjects indicating that it is hypoallergenic. Women who participated in a 28-day exaggerated use test exhibited no signs of inflammation or fragility.

Summer's Eve also offers cleansing cloths, a variant meant for more sensitive skin. Made of absorbent rayon, cleansing cloths are pre-moistened and mildly scented, and contain a light-moisturizing ingredient. They are perfect for speedy any-time cleansing.

There are nine steps to good feminine hygiene, Ladies, take note:

1) Keep external vaginal area clean and dry.

2) Wash everyday with a gentle cleanser and warm water. Remember to use a specially formulated cleanser for the genital area.

3) Clean genital area from front to back. Use feminine cloths to clean perineal area (between the anus and the posterior portion of the genital area).

4) Wear natural fibers and avoid tight clothing.

6) Sprinkle talc-free powder on underwear.

7) Avoid spermicidal creams if they irritate.

8) Thoroughly clean diaphragms, cervical caps, and spermicidal applicator.

9) Use vaginal moisturizer to ease discomfort if you are experiencing vaginal dryness.

Other brands

To enjoy being a woman, we have to really know the body. I left the lunch feeling great and also a bit ashamed, since I realized I'd been neglecting such an important part of me, that definitely deserves the BMW of feminine washes. To think that I spend a mint on foot scrubs and pedicures!

But the truth is, I am no stranger to feminine wash. I've tried nearly everything available on the shelves, and my experiences have been far from endorsable.

1) One brand was too watery and kept slipping through my fingers; I must have finished half the bottle before I could actually wash.

2) Another one was too sinister-looking in blood red; it also smelled like an operating table.

3) The last two I tried came in cute little bottles, all pink and pretty and heavily scented. I quote from Eve Ensler's "Vagina Monologues," 'Don't decorate it, don't try to clean it up, and don't try to make it smell like bathroom spray.' That was it: they smelled like bathroom spray in floral berry.

Road test

The reason you don't want to clean it up is because the vagina can actually take care of itself. It has its own army for fighting off infection; soap is much too harsh, killing the very thing that protects. If you're a no-nonsense kind of gal, washing with just plain water is best. For the rest of us who love to pamper and be pampered it's a different story.

So home I went with my little package of Summer's Eve. Said a quick hello to my hubby and son and muttered something about being "too hot outside ... quick shower, etc." For maximum effect, I lit some candles, played Puccini and let the water run. I squeezed a generous amount on my hand and saw a cool blue gel-like substance, looking friendly and fresh, and smelling just faintly delightful. I was in tears. I've finally found it!

I urge all the women out there to ask their vaginas' preference. You may be surprised: it knows exactly what it wants.

Souvenirs from a precious past

VIRGIL Calaguian can't be described in a word.

He's designed a Manila tourist guide's website and contributed to the Lonely Planet Guide to the Philippines. A free spirit, he feels that his real calling, however, is to travel—which is why he is currently unloading all his mementos culled from past sojourns.

In his Quezon City home, tables are laden with Oriental antiques, silverware and crystals. Collected from his 20-year stay in Tokyo are a gourd-shaped porcelain tea container, hexagon Chinese ginger jars, a lacquered horse from the Tang Dynasty, a paneled *shoji* screen depicting bamboo trees and foliage, and *imari* dinner ware in bone-white china.

During visits to the United States, he bought Oneida trays, cake dishes, wine coolers, compote dishes and gravy dishes. From London and Paris, he kept candle holders, wine bottle holders, old English silver sugar containers, Royal Doulton whiskey and brandy decanters, sherry glasses, a French crystal wine decanter, flute glasses, wine ewers from Baccarat, Bernardaud of Limoges plates that can serve as decorative pieces, oil and vinegar cruets from Crown Staffordshire, and Richard Ginori demitasse cups.

He also has old coffee table books and pieces of artwork such as Salvador Dali's famous lithographs "Cosmic Horseman" and "Paranoia Village," Erte's Four Seasons series, David Medalla's black-and-white abstraction "Bacchus Asleep" and "The Struggle for Production" in watercolor, and Nena Saguil's pen-and-ink "cosmicscapes."

At this stage in his life, Calaguian is unloading this exceptional collection in a sale that runs through next week at 36 Riverdale, St. Ignatius, Village, Quezon City. For inquiry and details, call 439-5759 or 0919-728-7157.

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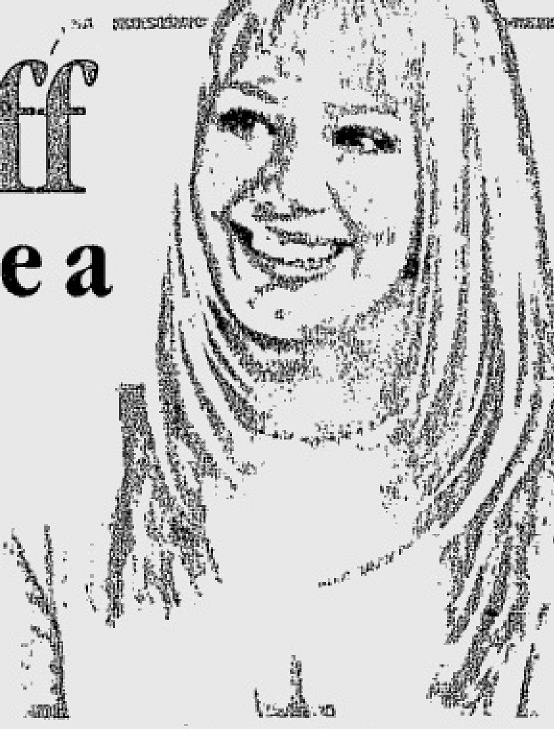
SATURDAY Special

Editor **Nestor U. Torre**

Hilary Duff is proud to be a role model



DUFF. Now a multi-media sensation.

By Nekesa Mumbi Moody

NEW YORK—On a recent hot summer's day, as hundreds of children waited anxiously with their parents to meet the latest, hottest teen star, one uninformed parent asked who all the fuss was about.

"It's Lizzie McGuire!," another adult proclaimed excitedly.

Public break

Not quite. Although Hilary Duff became a multimedia sensation based upon the hugely popular Disney Channel television series, "Lizzie McGuire," she made a very public break from the character—and its mega-million dollar franchise—last May.

Although the 15-year-old knows it will take some time before people stop calling her "Lizzie," she's confident that a spate of new projects—including a debut album due out next month—will help carve out her own identity.

"It doesn't really bother me that people call me that," she says of her TV namesake. "But my music is kind of what helps, I think, for people to get to know me better."

Fewer and fewer are needing an introduction. Hilary recently landed on the cover of Vanity Fair magazine, along with Mary Kate and Ashley Olsen, Amanda Bynes and others, as among the 20 "hot teens" in Hollywood.

Music specials

She will appear in two upcoming films, including "Cheaper by the Dozen," with Steve Martin and Ashton Kutcher. She's set to star in two WB music specials in the fall. And her music videos have been among the more anticipated among the MTV set.

"I think she's definitely one of the hot people to watch right now, and I don't see that waning," says Amy Doyle, vice president of music programming at MTV. "She's become the fabric of pop culture with teens right now."

"At this point, she's obviously already a franchise," boasts Bob Cavallo, chairman of Buena Vista Music Group, Hilary's Disney-based record label.

While she may not be as omnipresent as the Olsen twins, there are few teen stars who rival her in name recognition and star power.

Her good looks, wholesome image and comedic flair helped make "Lizzie McGuire," which chronicled the growing pains of a teen-age girl, the highest rated show on the Disney Channel. The show, which premiered in 2001, will continue to air new episodes until early 2004. It spawned video games, toys and books about the character, as well as "The Lizzie McGuire Movie," which made a respectable $40 million at the box office this summer.

Television series

She also sang on two "Lizzie McGuire" soundtracks—one for the television series and one for the movie—which have sold more than two million copies, according to her

HILARY/ D3

Dolphy at 75

By Nestor U. Torre

DOLPHY. Achievement of massive worth and mythic resonance.

KING comic Dolphy's whiz-bang recent observance of his "diamond" birthday conjures up decidedly mixed emotions.

Top of the heap

For starters, we're happy that he's bucked the odds and stayed on top of the comedy heap for more than 50 years. On the local entertainment scene, that's an achievement of massive worth and mythic resonance.

On the other hand, it's plain for all to see that the king comic isn't what he used to be.

On his weekly sitcom, he paces himself while his co-stars do much of the hopefully humorous huffing and puffing. Even his occasional films can't measure up to the eventful laugh-fests that were some of his past starrers.

So, why continue performing when the spirit may be willing but the physical equipment is a bit rusty? Because Dolphy's fabled comic sense and timing are still acute.

That's the bottom line, and younger, less innately gifted comedians just have to contend with it. The old comic order changeth, yielding place to new—but *where's* the new?

Many comedians have dubbed themselves Dolphy's scions and heirs, but the viewing and paying public clearly don't agree with their puffed-up estimations of themselves.

Thus, one factor why Dolphy hasn't retired is the absence of his successor in the field of comedy. Oh, the likes of Vic Sotto, Joey de

DOLPHY/ D2

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Tatu
200 Km/H In The Wrong Lane
"How Soon Is Now"
RINGTONE: N8
POLYTONE: T8
WALLPAPER: C3

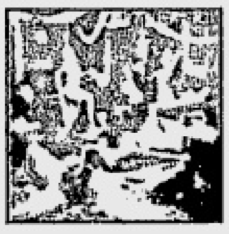
Sex Bomb Girls
Round 2
"Spageti Song"
RINGTONE: N2
POLYTONE: T2
WALLPAPER: C1

Ashanti
Chapter II
"Rock Wit U (Aww Baby)"
RINGTONE: N6
POLYTONE: T6
WALLPAPER: C5

Evanescence
Fallen
"Going Under"
RINGTONE: N9
POLYTONE: T9
WALLPAPER: FREE*

Vic Zhou
Vic
"Love Loves You"
RINGTONE: N3
POLYTONE: T3
WALLPAPER: FREE*

Avril Lavigne
Let Go
"Why"
RINGTONE: N7
POLYTONE: T7
WALLPAPER: C4



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Just Balls
"Addicted"
RINGTONE: N10
POLYTONE: T10
WALLPAPER: C2

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More substantial films in this year's Cinemanila

By Rito P. Asilo

THE WELL-PUBLICIZED arrival of noted Filipino-American Hollywood filmmakers and stars, like Lou Diamond Phillips ("La Bamba," "Courage Under Fire") and Tia Carrere ("Relic Hunter") to take part in the Fifth Makati Cinemanila International Film Festival at Ayala Center's Greenbelt cinemas, from Aug. 7 to 24, is creating a significant buzz, not only among local film buffs but in the Asian film community as well.

Role models

Phillips, Cárrere and film executive Fritz Friedman will be honored with Lifetime Achievement Awards for being role models and for excellence in their respective careers.

For the past five years, the festival, spearheaded by Tikoy Aguiluz and the Independent Cinema Association of the Philippines, has endured considerable birth pains to bring critically acclaimed non-Hollywood films that are not normally screened in commercial theaters here.

This year, the list of films scheduled for screening looks even more impressive than in previous years. We have seen a number of these hard-to-find titles that you won't find in your friendly neighborhood video shops. But a number of the more promising titles are new classics of world cinema, and Cinemanila is screening them!

On top of our list is Pedro Almodovar's most poignant film to date, "Talk to Her." Of the 80 films scheduled to be shown, some of the noteworthy crowd-pleasers you should watch out for are: "City of God" (Brazil); Lars Von Trier's Nicole Kidman-starrer, "Dogville;" "El Crimen del Padre Amaro" (Mexico); Francois Ozon's "Swimming Pool;" Aki Kaurismaki's "A Man Without a Past;" the controversial "Blissfully Yours" (Thailand) and "The Debut," Fil-Am Gene Cajayon's film, which opened the festival.

DANTE Basco, Bernadette Balagtas and Eddie Garcia in "The Debut."

What makes this film significant is that this is the first Fil-Am movie released by big-studio Sony Pictures. It won Best Film honors in Hawaii and San Diego.

Similar conflicts

There is another US-produced film intended for the festival on the Filipino-American experience that we enjoyed on DVD titled "Better Luck Tomorrow." While similar conflicts are presented, each film showcases a unique sensitivity to issues of loyalty and identity.

Also scheduled for screening are festival circuit favorites. If you've never seen a Wong Kar-Wai film, a number if them (like the delightful "Chungking Express," "Happy Together" and the tragic "In the Mood for Love") will be screened in a retrospective of his films.

The festival's Sundance-like philosophy should help shake the local film industry out of its the stupor. To encourage new filmmakers, the festival has organized an Asia-Europe scriptlab on the last three days, Aug. 22-24, of the festival.

Another festival objective—to restore the stature of the Philippines as a filmmaking hub in Southeast-Asia—may be too lofty under the present circumstances, but we do have to start somewhere.

Emergence

In recent years, we have discovered the emergence of South Korea, Iran, Thailand, and even Vietnam in the international film market because of their fresh, dynamic films. But we're hoping the impressive quality of these features will inspire filmmakers from the Philippines to come up with films that can compete with rest of the world.

Schedule: Aug. 9, Saturday—11:30 a.m.: "Mr. & Mrs. Iyer;" "The Buttoners;" "Oil Children," 2 p.m.: "The Tracker;" "Divine Intervention;" "Uzak," 4:30 p.m.: "Jahon;" "Swimming Pool;" "Madame Brouette," 7 p.m.: Erotic Tales;" "Dogville;" "Man Without A Past," 9:30 p.m.: City of God;" "Dogville;" "Waiting for Happiness."

For further schedules, call the Cinemanila secretariat at 371-8821.

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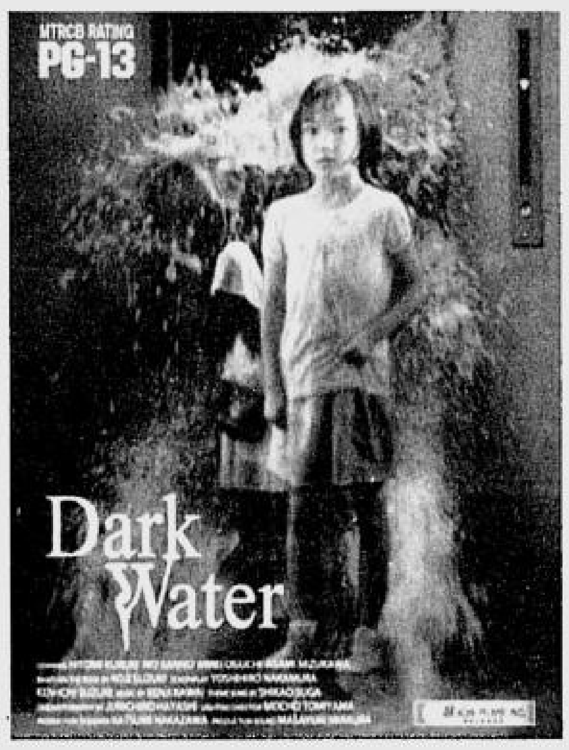

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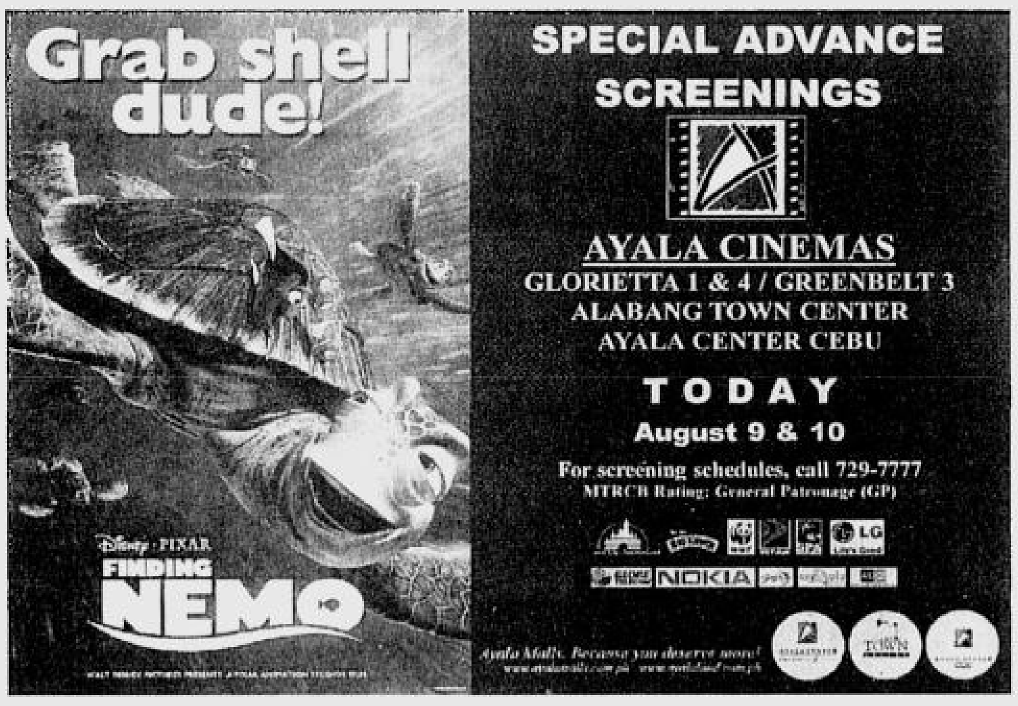

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Dolphy

From page D1

Leon, Ogie Alcasid and Michael V, have come up with hits, but their styles are different from his, so the line of succession isn't clear.

Hallmarks

Their styles are generally based on gags and comedic gimmicks, while Dolphy's comedy is more situation-and character-driven—incidentally, the hallmarks of superior comedy through the decades.

Unlike Dolphy, too, many other top comics aren't song-and-dance men, their comedic fights of fancy are generally more earthbound than his.

And they're also less versatile in creating characters, of which Dolphy has come up with a veritable rogue's gallery through the decades—simpleton, family man, secret agent, martial artist, flaming fairy-even Cyrano de Bergerac, whom Dolphy feelingly portrayed years ago, in an exceptional film with Pilar Pilapil.

But that fine movie flopped, so Dolphy, the occasional dreamer got a big painful bump on the head to remind him that,

DOLPHY/ D3

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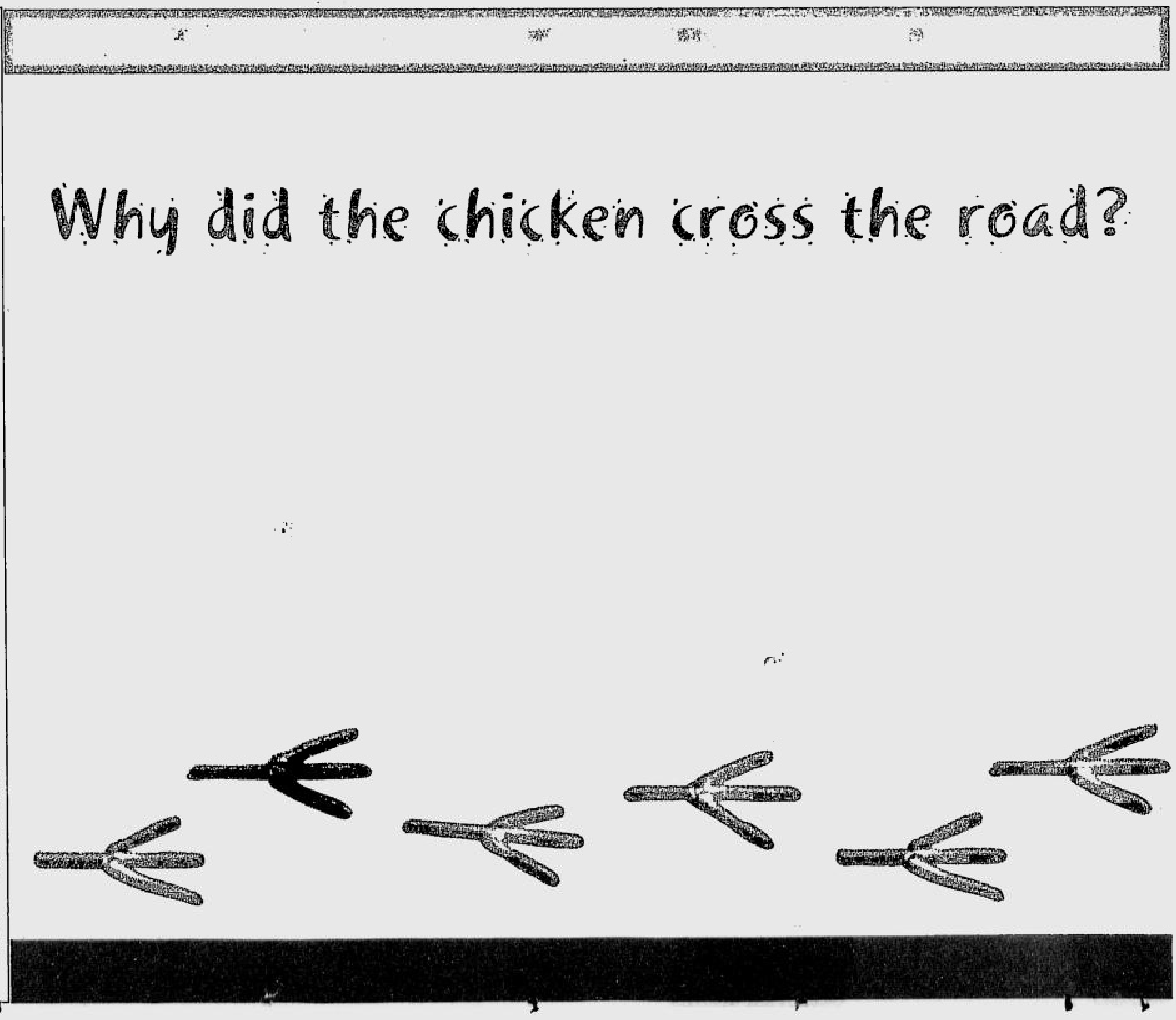
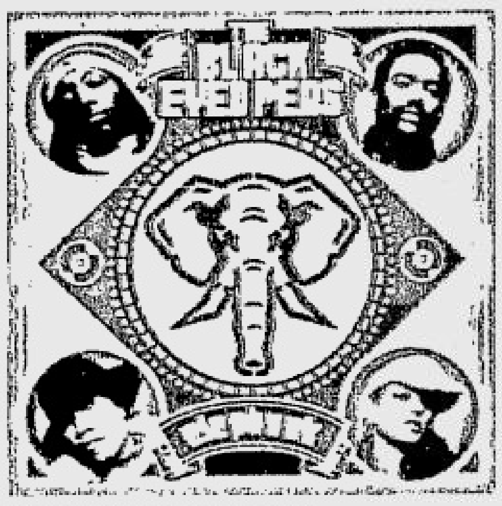


Why did the chicken cross the road?

Greater musical variety in Black Eyed Peas' new album

By Noelani Torre



"ELEPHUNK." Harmless fun.

IF YOU tune in regularly to Magic 89.9, then you've no doubt heard of The Black Eyed Peas.

Hip-hop

This hip-hop alterna-rap group isn't exactly well-known here but for the past few weeks, their peace anthem, "Where Is the Love," has been the station's staple song. It has even snagged the No. 1 spot in the weekly countdown.

The combination of dangerously schmaltzy lyrics and Justin Timberlake's indiscernible vocals in the chorus sounds fatal, but "Where Is the Love" is rescued from musical wreckage by the catchy melody and the strong thumping bass line that characterize the songs in their third and latest album, "Elephunk" (A&M Records).

This newest release comes with more than a few integral changes in the music and the group itself.

Formerly a trio—will.i.am, apl.de.ap, and Taboo—Black Eyed Peas is now, with newcomer Fergie, a quartet—and her throaty purr adds a dash of style to the record.

Interesting

Local audiences might also find it interesting to note that apl, *aka* Allan Pineda, is Filipino-American, as he vocally asserts in several of the tracks.

In "the apl song," which he co-produced with will.i.am, he takes off from the Carlos Banares classic, "Balita," to wax sentimental about his "homeland." Aside from its Tagalog lyrics, however, this track doesn't stand out much music-wise.

What makes "Elephunk" different from their two previous releases, 1997's "Behind the Front" and 2000's "Bridging the Gap," is its greater musical variety. Not that the first two weren't musically open-ended—BEP is in fact known for that open-endedness—but "Elephunk's" horizons are just a whole lot wider.

"This is a hip-hop record but we didn't get into this with hip-hop on our mind," says will.i.am, who produced the entire album. "We were just thinking of good songs, good music. We didn't want to say anything typical, like 'My style is this, and my rhymes are like that.' A couple might have slipped in, but we were really tired of saying things like that."

This has resulted in a genre-transcending one hour's worth of music, with elements ranging from straightforward rap and old school hip-hop to swaying bossa nova-esque rhythms, dancehall themes, and even a touch of rock and metal.

Bandwagon

BEP isn't jumping on the fusion bandwagon, however—they've been into "crossing the boundaries" from the very beginning, though, admittedly, not in as high a degree as in "Elephunk."

The album kicks off with the swinging and thumping "Hands Up," one of its best tracks. The beat is infectious and the song pulls us right into a partying mood with its exhortations, "hands up," "touch the sky," "get 'em up," ultimately fulfilling its promise of "we go make you move, we go make you high." Even non-dancers like us felt its danceable pull.

"Hands Up" is an indication of where the album wants to steer us to, which it seems is into the nearest club, as most of the songs here sound just right for shaking your booty on the dance floor.

Another noteworthy track would be the non-politically correct, but irresistibly bouncy "Let's Get Retarded," that'll have you singing along. This is followed closely by the equally irresistible dancehall-esque and more Sean Paul-ish than Sean Paul "Hey Mama."

Fergie's slick, charged vocal talent shines in the male-female showdown, "Shut Up," and the Latin-inspired "Sexy." The latter song, which has replayed elements from Antonio Carlos Jobim's "Insensatez," also has the Brazilian bossa nova legend Sergio Mendez lending his talents at the piano. *(To be concluded)*

Hilary Duff is proud . . .

From page D1

record company.

As the character's popularity skyrocketed, so did Hilary's. She co-starred in "Agent Cody Banks," which has made approximately $50 million since its release earlier this year.

Duff moved to Hollywood when she was about nine, leaving her hometown of Houston with her family to pursue her acting dream. Her breakthrough role came in 1998, in the TV movie "Casper Meets Wendy."

The enormity of her current fame is sometimes hard for even Hilary to grasp.

"It's very weird because it's like, I'm such a normal 15-year-old girl when I'm not working," she says with a cheery smile, amid a series of media interviews and autograph signings at the store.

"At home, I have to do chores, I hang out with my friends. I have to pinch myself sometimes, it just seems so unreal. But it's cool."

She's not just popular with kids: her good-girl image also makes a hit with parents. She's proud to be a role model: "It's good that people are looking up to me, and it's always very important to set a good example," she says earnestly. *AP*

Dolphy at 75

From page D2

while he was exceptional, his viewers weren't.

So, he went back to his *kwela* potboilers that had moviegoers falling off their seats and laughing—until the tears came.

That's comedy king Dolphy's tragedy, in case anybody's interested, and on his 75th year, perhaps more people than usual will be: his comic talent is world-class, but his audience has failed to develop with him, and remains at the level of silly slapstick and "green and brown" humor.

Can you imagine the great comedy movies Dolphy could have come up with, if local viewers were more with-it? Alas, those truly memorable productions will never see the light of film, and we're the poorer for it.

Still, Dolphy is pragmatic enough to focus on what's possible under his audience's limitations, and has given us enough moments of pure cinematic joy to make his 75th year genuine cause for celebration.

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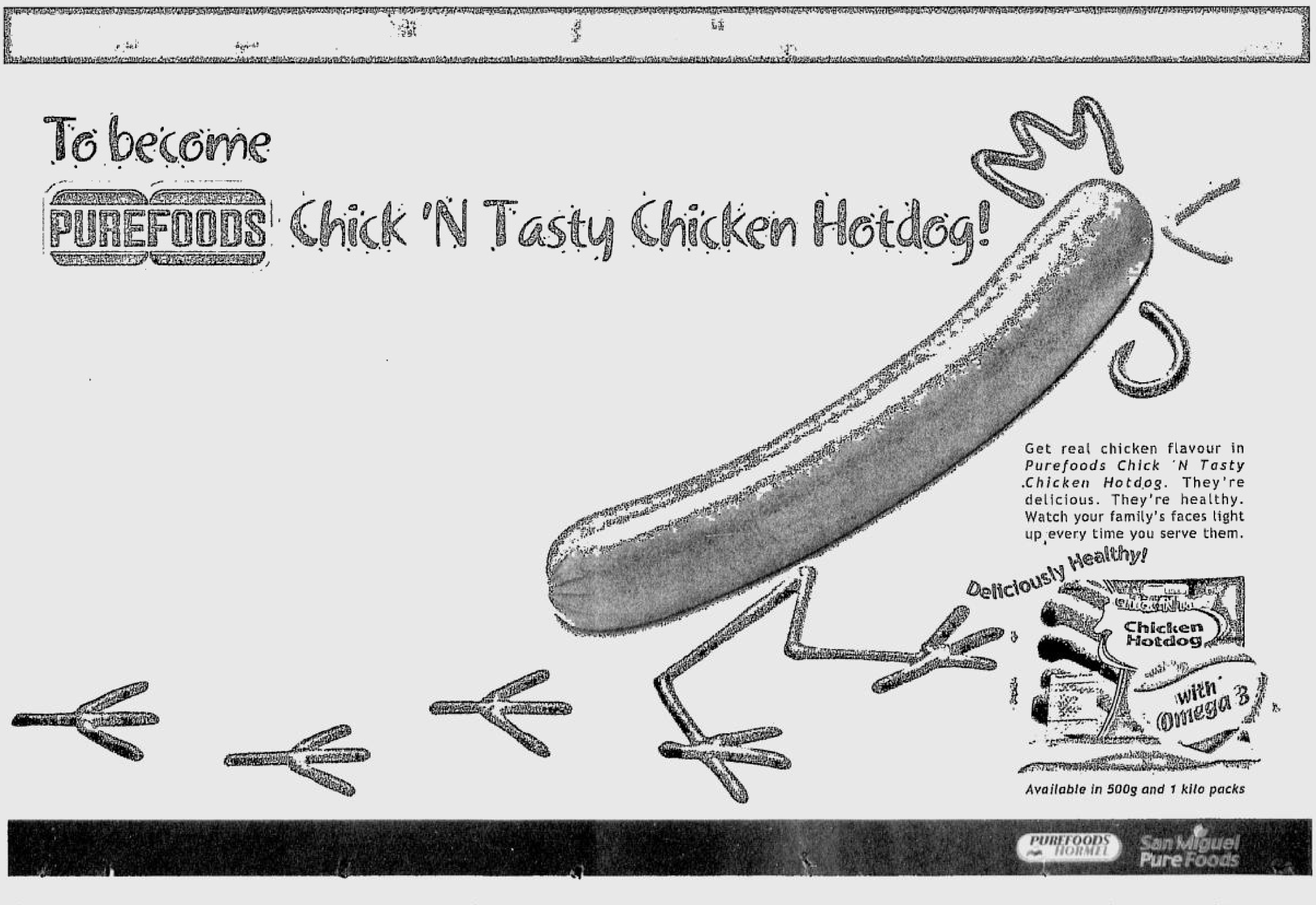

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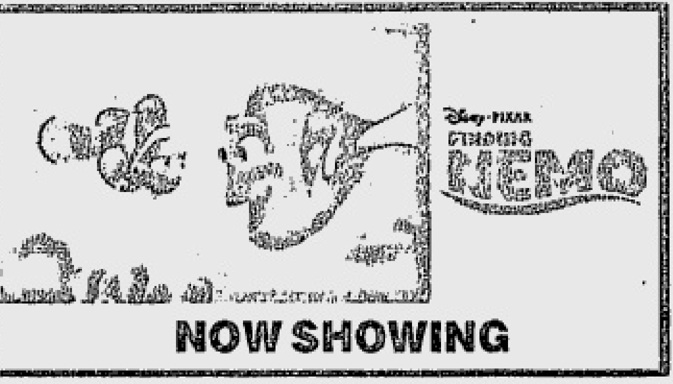

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6331901 • 6329401
1 BAD BOYS 2
2 FINDING NEMO
3 BAD BOYS 2
4 BULLETPROOF MONK 2
5 MY LITTLE EYE
6 HOLES
7 DARK WATER
8 NAKED WEAPON
9 IN-LAWS
10 TOMB RAIDER: CRADLE OF LIFE
11 SNAKE LADY
12 MOTEL

SM CITY NORTH EDSA
9295452
1 BULLETPROOF MONK
2 IN-LAWS
3 MOTEL
4 NAKED WEAPON
5 FINDING NEMO
6 MY LITTLE EYE
7 TOMB RAIDER: CRADLE OF LIFE
8 BAD BOYS 2

SM SOUTHMALL
8066888
1 NAKED WEAPON
2 SNAKE LADY
3 BULLETPROOF MONK
4 FINDING NEMO
5 LIZZIE MCGUIRE
6 TERMINATOR 3
7 TOMB RAIDER: CRADLE OF LIFE
8 BAD BOYS 2
9 DARK WATER
10 MOTEL

SM CITY CEBU
2313876
1 TOMB RAIDER: CRADLE OF LIFE
2 FINDING NEMO
3 LIZZIE MCGUIRE
4 BULLETPROOF MONK
5 DUMB & DUMBERER
6 SABIK SA PAG-IBIG
7 IMPOSTOR
8 BAD BOYS 2

SM CITY ILOILO
3209422
1 DEATH WATCH
2 RESERVED
3 LIZZIE MCGUIRE
4 TOMB RAIDER: CRADLE OF LIFE
5 BAD BOYS 2
6 BANGKOK HAUNTED
7 RESERVED
8 MASAMANG UGAT

SM CITY PAMPANGA
7128015
1 TOMB RAIDER: CRADLE OF LIFE
2 FINDING NEMO
3 BULLETPROOF MONK
4 SABIK SA PAG-IBIG
5 IMPOSTOR
6 BAD BOYS 2

SM SUPER CTR. SUCAT
8294975
1 FINDING NEMO
2 TOMB RAIDER: CRADLE OF LIFE
3 BAD BOYS 2
4 MOTEL

SM CINEMA TUTUBAN
2514302
1 BAD BOYS 2
2 FINDING NEMO
3 MOTEL
4 BULLETPROOF MONK

SM CITY DAVAO
2976998
1 BAD BOYS 2
2 DEATH WATCH
3 LIZZIE MCGUIRE
4 BULLETPROOF MONK
5 DUMB & DUMBERER
6 TOMB RAIDER: CRADLE OF LIFE

SM BICUTAN
776-3055
1 BAD BOYS 2
2 MOTEL
3 FINDING NEMO
4 TOMB RAIDER: CRADLE OF LIFE

SM CITY CAGAYAN DE ORO
859-2884
1 BAD BOYS 2
2 DOWN WITH LOVE
3 LIZZIE MCGUIRE
4 TOMB RAIDER: CRADLE OF LIFE

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1 FINDING NEMO
11:15 FS/11:45 MF/2:00/4:15/6:30/8:45/10:35 LFS/11:00 LMF/12:50 END

2 IN-LAWS
10:40 FS/11:10 MF/1:20/3:30/5:40/7:50/9:30 LFS/10:00 LMF/11:40 END

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2 THE IN-LAWS 10:40, 12:55, 3:10, 5:25, 7:40, 10:00
5 NAKED WEAPON 10:50, 1:00, 3:10, 5:20, 7:30, 9:50
3 BULLET PROOF MONK 10:50, 1:00, 3:10, 5:20, 7:30, 9:50
6 TOMB RAIDER 2 11:20, 2:00, 4:40, 7:20, 10:00
7 FINDING NEMO
9 HOLES 11:20, 1:40, 4:00, 6:30, 9:00
8 MY LITTLE EYE 12:05, 2:15, 4:30, 6:40, 9:00
10 SNAKE LADY 10:50, 1:00, 3:10, 5:20, 7:30, 9:50

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2 BAD BOYS 2 10:15, 1:15, 4:15, 7:15, 10:00
3 FINDING NEMO
4 MY LITTLE EYE 11:05, 12:55, 2:45, 4:35, 6:25, 8:15, 10:00
5 NAKED WEAPON 10:15, 12:30, 2:45, 5:00, 7:15, 9:40
6 BULLET PROOF MONK 10:10, 12:25, 2:40, 4:55, 7:10, 9:40
7 TOMB RAIDER 2 10:15, 12:30, 2:50, 5:10, 7:30, 9:50

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1 TERMINATOR 3
2 BAD BOYS 2
3 TOMB RAIDER 2
4 BULLET PROOF MONK
5 NAKED WEAPON
6 FINDING NEMO
7 THE IN-LAWS
8 SNAKE LADY

Novaliches 935-3229/31
1 TOMB RAIDER 2
2 BULLET PROOF MONK
3 BAD BOYS 2
4 SNAKE LADY
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2 LIZZIE MCGUIRE
3 BANGKOK HAUNTED
4 TOMB RAIDER 2
5 DEATHWATCH
6 BEHIND THE GREEN DOOR

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'Noon at Ngayon' showcases gifted stellar cast

By Nestor U. Torre

EXACTLY 20 years ago, Marilou Diaz-Abaya's "Moral" paid tribute to female friendship within the context of the turbulent times that the Philippines was going through.

Praises

The movie reaped praises for its maker and stars (Lorna Tolentino, Anna Marin, Gina Alajar and Sandy Andolong), but after all the kudos, they moved on to other things. Was that all there was to it?

At the moment, it seemed so. Then, many years later, as "20th anniversary" reissues and remakes became popular in the film world, the question was asked: why not do a "Moral" update showing its four main protagonists 20 years later? No, not a reissue, not a remake, but a new chapter to the four female friends' individual and collective stories.

The original players were still around, so, great! Unfortunately, pointy-headed problems arose, like somebody charging much too much for her participation, so it was eventually decided to start with a clean slate, and cast all of the four protagonists with new actresses—Dina Bonnevie, Cherry Pie Picache, Jean Garcia and Eula Valdez.

Emotional continuity

Personally, we thought the decision was unfortunate, because it would tend to rob the new film of "emotional continuity," at least for those viewers who had seen the original "Moral."

EULA Valdez goes from TV *kontrabida* to dramatic actress in Marilou Diaz-Abaya's film.

But a colleague who has seen a rough edit of the finished update production says that the movie *doesn't* suffer at all from its new casting, so we're happily prepared to be proven wrong.

In any case, the new film does have an element of continuity in the fact that Laurice Guillen, who played the mother of one of the four protagonists in "Moral," still plays the same role in this update.

In fact, Laurice's performance is deemed central and emblematic to the new production, which is why she's given prominent "special participation" credit in the movie's ads, and is seated at the very center of the cast's "family photo" in the same advertisements.

Marilou's update is significant for the number of young stars it has cast as its four protagonists' children and other teen or young-adult characters—Jericho Rosales, Marvin Agustin, Jodi Sta. Maria, Dimples Romana, Aiza Marquez, Patrick Garcia and Paolo Contis.

This strong interaction between veteran stars and talented young comers suggests that, if everything works out well, this update could enjoy the popular and critical success that "Tanging Yaman" had a few years ago.

Prospect

That's a prospect to look forward to, because this film took a very long time to shoot due to its stars' "impossible" work schedules, and it was made with a lot of heart and insight, so it deserves to succeed.

Will it? A hopeful sign: somebody who's seen the film in private preview declares that it's the best movie Marilou Diaz-Abaya has ever made. Since Marilou has come up with a number of masterpieces that have been acclaimed here and abroad, that's saying a lot!

All the more reason, then, for us to make it a point to see "the 'Moral' update," now titled "Noon at Ngayon—Pagsasamang Kay Ganda," when it starts its run later this month!

Piano bar habitués love listening to April Ramos and Jenny Sanchez

By Andy P. Bais

TO many, the names of April Ramos and Jenny Sanchez may not be all that familiar. But to piano bar habitués, they ring a bell—because April and Jenny are two of the most in-demand piano bar performers these days.

April and Jenny perform five nights a week at various venues. We wonder, how have they managed to keep their voices in tiptop shape? Jenny simply replies, *"Natutulog naman po kami sa araw!"*

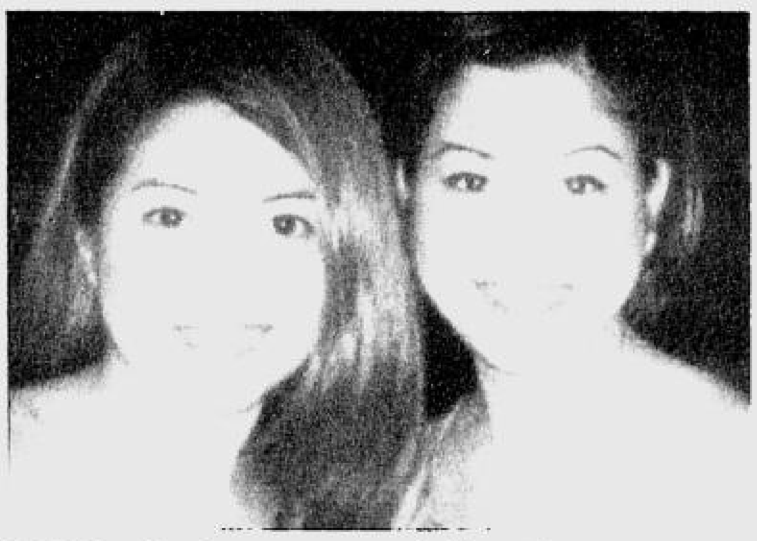
Showband

The twentysomething charmers are no tyros on the live performance scene. For six years, they were the frontliners of the First Born Child showband.

Between the two, it is Jenny who was more inclined to take singing as a "profession." *"Bata pa ako, mahilig na talaga akong kumanta.* I used to join singing contests in school, and won most of them," Jenny says.

Hobby

April, on the other hand, considered singing as just a hobby. It was only after finishing her business management course that she focused on singing as a better option than an eight-to-five office job.



RAMOS and Sanchez are no tyros on the live performance scene.

"My friends were instrumental in my becoming a professional singer. *Mahilig kasi kaming mag*-sing-along, *at sabi nila mas may* future *daw ako kung mag*-singer *ako,"* she relates.

Both young women have fond memories of their years with the band. Aside from the perk of traveling abroad for free, they also treasure the discipline and right attitude towards the singing profession that they got from being band members.

"Talagang we were trained to perform at our best, *kasi* strict *ang disiplina sa banda. Hindi lang kami dapat magaling pakinggan, dapat din magandang tingnan."*

Three years ago, they thought it was time to move on, so they ventured into their respective careers. Luckily, they were able to book themselves as solo performers.

Traumatic

For April, her initial attempt was traumatic. "My first night at Century Park was really a disaster! I was requested to sing 'I'll Be Seeing You,' and, from start to finish, I sang the song exactly the way I sang it while I was still with the band—in second voice! As a result, I was replaced for a week," she sighs.

The opportunity for April and Jenny to work as a tandem came when they were booked to perform as a duo in Japan. They even had to wear identical costumes to complete their look. *"Mas mukha daw kaming* class *kapag naka*-costume," Jenny explains.

Tandem

After their Japan trip, they decided to perform together, but as alternate performers in one venue. Thus far, their tandem has been successful. "At least, *nagagamit pa rin namin ang aming* costumes. And what's funny is, people tell us *na naging magkamukha na kaming dalawa!"* April laughs.

On Monday nights, Coriks Bar in Makati is always full and the atmosphere is spirited. Jenny and April's fine voices and banter always elicit a warm response.

What is the secret of their success as piano bar performers? "First, *dapat marami kang alam na* standard songs, because this is what people like to hear. Second, make sure that you acknowledge them, *mas mabuti kung alam mo ang* names *nila*. And most importantly, *dapat kantahin mo ang mga* request *nila*. Happy *na sila nun* and they'll come back *para panoorin ka nila uli,* "April relates.

These two talented ladies also perform at Chef and Brewer, Ortigas (Tuesday); Sulo Hotel, QC (Wednesday) Top of the Century, Sheraton Hotel (Friday) and La Memoire, Creekside, Makati (Saturday).

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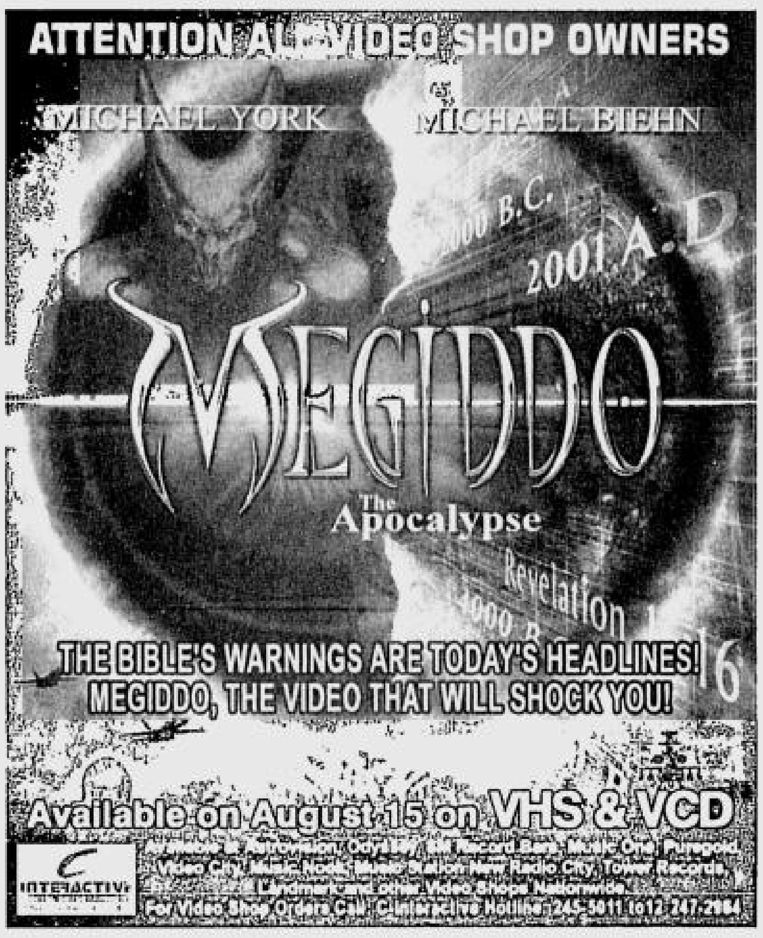

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Making sense of your electric bill

STREET SMART

Mandy Navasero

FOR the life of me, I've had a hard time making sense of my electric bill. In the end, I would still have to pay what to me is an indecent amount of money.

So, one day, I talked to Elpi Cuna, a dear, old friend from Meralco. He asked me and a couple of media people to dinner and brought along the very charming Mr. Manolo Lopez.

Ellen Tordesillas showed us her electric bill, which was considerable. And Jullie Yap Daza declared she is able to save on airconditioning only now that her daughters have married.

All explanations went past my head because frankly, all I cared about was how much Meralco was actually earning. How much was their share from the billions of pesos collected and, if they have so much money already, could they please stop raising the rates for sometime?

This is what I learned:

1) Meralco is only the collector, and on the average, it charges only 20 percent of the customer's total bill. You can ask the National Power Corp. (Napocor) and Transco where the 80 percent goes.

2) Meralco charges for distribution, metering, supply, currency exchange rate adjustment (Cera) and some pass-through charges. So, we pay Meralco for service, like we do for telephone and water utility.

3) There are so-called "lifeline rates," by which heavy users of electricity subsidize marginalized end-users.

Meralco has not raised its basic rates for nine years. We only hope that investors will put money into this industry, like what has happened in telecommunications, where competition helps drive down the cost of texting and voice calls.

MONTINOLA. BPI top honcho.

Banking convenience

The Bank of the Philippine Islands takes convenience banking one step further with the Express Banking Centers (EBC) or kiosk branches, located in high-traffic areas like malls and transport centers.

At the EBCs, clients can open a BPI Express Teller or Platinum Savings Account, and they can get their ATM Card in 20 minutes. They can also apply for a BPI Express Cash Card, BPI Credit Card, and auto and housing loans.

There are approximately 106 Express Banking Centers nationwide, operating during non-traditional banking hours, including weekends and holidays.

The new EBCs were recently launched by BPI top honcho Gigi Montinola at five Express Banking Centers in Metro Manila malls: at Glorietta 4, SM Megamall, Shangri-La Edsa, Alabang Town Center and Ever Gotesco Commonwealth.

* * *

Searching for an old camera, Kodak M50 instamatic. Call 522-1905 or 522-5189.

Here come local movies' . . .

From page D7

Frenchy. And Prieto sounds very much to the manor born.

Put them together, and you create the image of class with acceptable sass. And Francine's physical packaging lives up to her classy screen name: in her publicity photos, she comes off as sexy but a bit distant, a look that all prize catches should project.

We hear that, aside from being daring, Francine is also a proficient actress, so this should land her roles that are more interesting and challenging than the parts most bold starlets get to play.

The second classily sexy newcomer on our list is Juliana Palermo, who is being introduced in Tikoy Aguiluz's new movie. Juliana is another cool beauty and expressed herself well when she guested on TV recently.

Let's hope that these two promising newcomers do well in their breakthrough films, and that producers discover more starlets like them, so local sex flicks will improve, and attract a less déclassé viewership.

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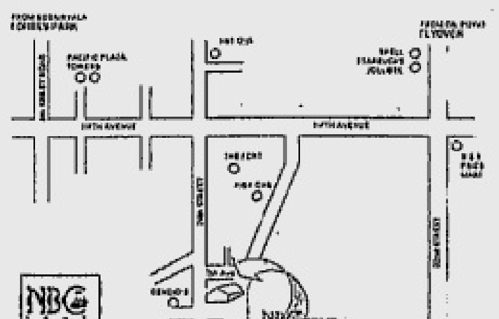

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Sentimental without being hokey

CRUZ. Gifted composer and pianist.

By Noelani Torre

WE Pinoys have always had a sentimental streak—and we are hardly in any danger of losing it.

Our artists are constantly bombarding us with album after album steeped in sentiment, and we confess to feeling smothered at times.

Synthesizers

We have nothing against love songs, but what we protest is the dismayingly homogenized flavor that many collections have. Plus, nowadays we keep hearing electronically rendered music, love songs that have been put through synthesizers and what-have-you, resulting in a hokey feel.

This is why we appreciate collections like Willy Cruz's recently released album, "Through the Rain" (Viva).

A follow-up to last year's widely successful "Got to Believe in Magic," "Through the Rain" is also an acoustic compilation of well-loved love songs, arranged and performed by Cruz

SENTIMENTAL/ D8

SONG OF MULAN
A TALE OF A YOUNG GIRL'S TRIUMPH OVER GREAT ODDS

Nancy Castiglione as Mulan • Greg Turvey as Captain Shang • Directed by Freddie Santos

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Aug. 9 - 11am, 3pm, 6pm
Aug. 10 - 11am, 3pm, 6pm

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Araneta Center
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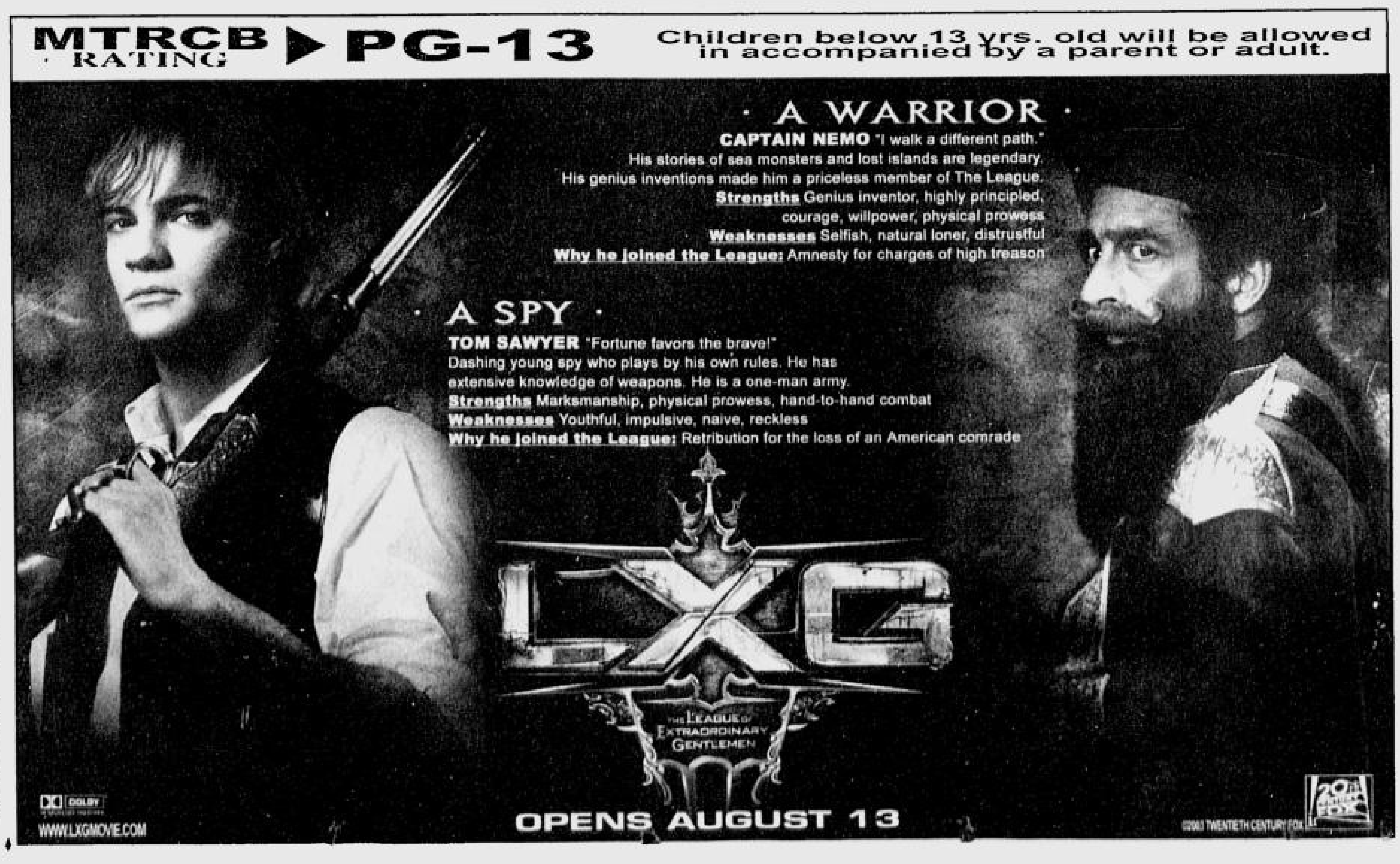
Ali 2	SNAKE LADY
Ali 3	TOMB RAIDER 2
Ali 4	BAD BOYS 2
Ali 5	BULLET PROOF MONK
Ali 6	IN-LAWS
Ali 7	NAKED WEAPON

ARANETA COLISEUM

AUG 09	UAAP GAMES/ 2ND ROUND
AUG 16	UAAP GAMES/ 2ND ROUND
AUG 17	UAAP GAMES/ 2ND ROUND
AUG 24	UAAP GAMES/ 2ND ROUND
AUG 28	UAAP GAMES/ 2ND ROUND
AUG 30	UAAP GAMES/ 2ND ROUND
Opens December 2003	DISNEY ON ICE Featuring "Beauty & The Beast"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Weaknesses Selfish, natural loner, distrustful
Why he joined the League: Amnesty for charges of high treason

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TOM SAWYER "Fortune favors the brave!"
Dashing young spy who plays by his own rules. He has extensive knowledge of weapons. He is a one-man army.
Strengths Marksmanship, physical prowess, hand-to-hand combat
Weaknesses Youthful, impulsive, naive, reckless
Why he joined the League: Retribution for the loss of an American comrade

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Here come local movies' classy sex stars

PRIETO. Also a proficient actress.

By Nestor U. Torre

SEXY stars and starlets are P1.20 a dozen these days, and the steamy quickies they appear in are similarly without much value in the estimation of local viewers.

Budget sleazies

Thus, producers of budget sleazies churn them out to the tune of two a week, but few of them make much money, despite their graphic content.

As a result, producers have been rethinking their standard practice of "discovering" new bold stars in GRO clubs and sexy dance presentations.

They've finally realized that, since cheap porno tapes are readily available for the delectation of video voyeurs, today's viewers are willing to pay good money at the box office only if the sexy movies are professionally produced, and their female leads are "classy."

Now, one man's classy can be another guy's déclassé, so what in the world does "classy" really mean, as far as local bold-film aficionados are concerned?

First, the sexy star must not only be hot to trot, she also has to look really good. Meaning, beautiful face and body, perfect skin, well-packaged in terms of make-up, hairstyles and wardrobe (well, she has to wear clothes *some* time!).

Daring and baring

Next, she should know how to act. Gone are the days when all a "daring and baring" beauty had to do to get viewers all hot and bothered was to bump and grind and pretend to have an orgasm.

Professionally-produced sexy films now feature more complex characters, situations, and interrelationships, so their actresses should be able to come up with textured, believable characterizations.

Thirdly, the sexy actress should speak and move well. Thick *probinsiyana* accents and *bastusin* ways are no longer allowed, and the brazen starlet with the voice of a fishwife will just have to forget her glittering dreams of stardom, go back to her seaside barrio, and marry a fisherman.

In addition, bold performers shouldn't mangle the English or Filipino language unless they want to end up on Boob-tube Booboos!

Bold stardom

Of the scores of sexy starlets to make their bid for bold stardom this year, two new comers qualify as classy:

The first is Francine Prieto, who's being introduced in Seiko's "Liberated." The screen name says it all: Francine is as hoity-toity as Claudine and Regine, with the additional plus factor of sounding saucily

HERE COME/ D5

Chinese filmfest at UP Film Center

By Rito P. Asilo

"IT'S not so much what Chinese films can teach our neighbors in Asia but what our respective cultures can teach each other through the film medium," says Chinese actress Wu Yue, through an interpreter, when we ask her to assess the strengths of Chinese cinema that other Asian countries can learn from.

Lead actress

Yue, lead actress of Jin Chen's Moscow Filmfest award-winning drama, "Love Story by Tea," the opening film of the six-day-long China Film Festival held at the UP Film Center from Aug. 6 to 11, was in town to grace the Philippine premiere of her film.

The film is about a shy railroad worker who meets a pretty teacher at a literature class. The two are bound by their love for drinking chrysanthemum tea, and before they know it, they fall in love.

But the woman's congenital heart anomaly prevents them from having a sex life, and dashes any possibility of having kids. Can love exist without sex? The question may sound myopic, but the emotional repercussions are real.

Director Qi Jian, whose films ("Baseball Boys," "Team Spirit") are no strangers to filmfest competitions, agrees: "We all have to learn from each other's culture to avoid misunderstandings," he adds.

List of films

The list of films includes Ang Lee's Oscar-winning "Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon;" the Gong Li-starrer, "Breaking the Silence;" the Sundance entry, "Life Show;" the Tony Leung Cannes entry, "The Guasha Treatment;" and Cairo Filmfest winner "A Sigh."

Showing today are "Breaking the Silence," 2 p.m.; "The Guasha Treatment," 5 p.m. and "Red Snow," 8 p.m. Films on Monday are "Purple Sunset," 4 p.m. and "Heavenly Grassland," 7 p.m.

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TOMB RAIDER 2 PG13 12:00,2:30,5:00, 7:30,10:00	NAKED WEAPON R13 1:25,3:35,5:45 MY LITTLE EYE R13 7:40,9:40	THE IN-LAWS PG13 11:40, 1:50, 4:00,6:10, 8:20,10:30

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CINEMA 2
THE IN-LAWS
11:45, 2:00, 4:15,
6:30, 8:50
PG13

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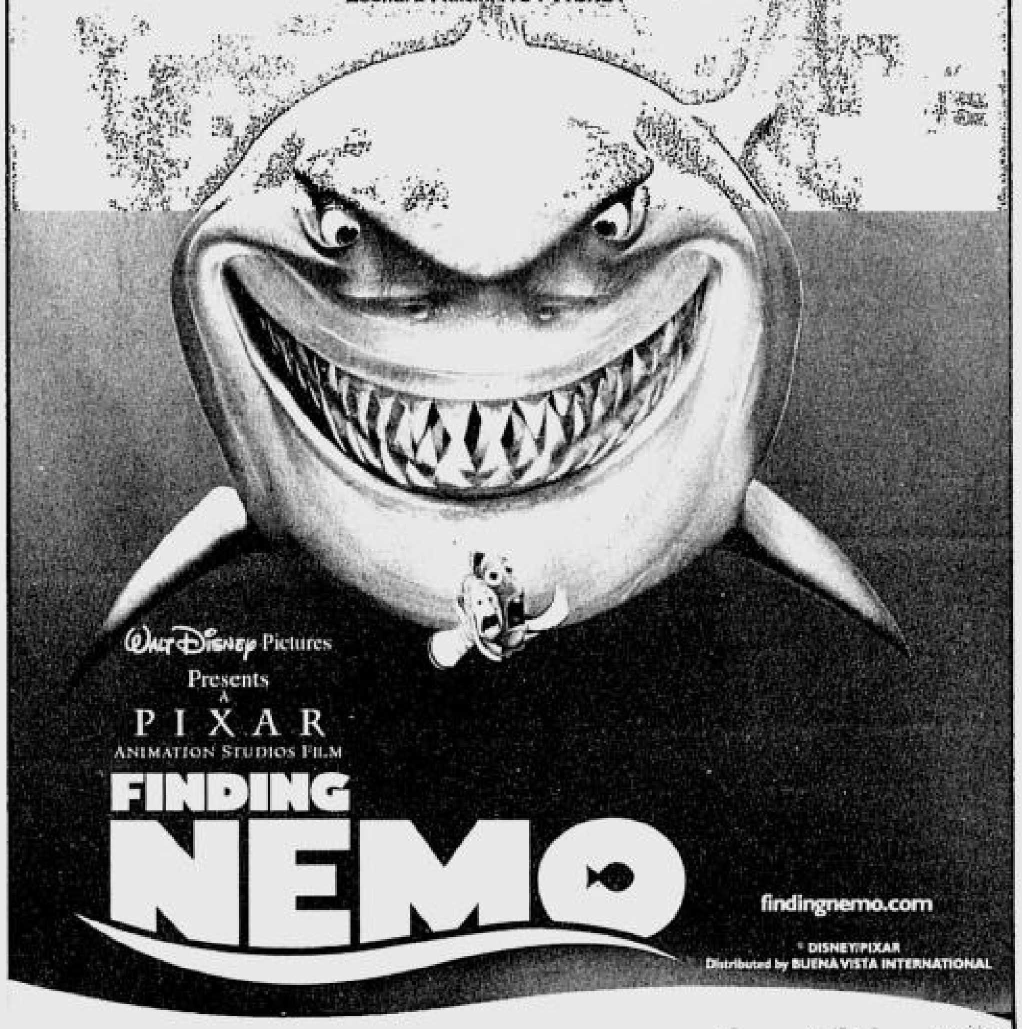
MUSIC MUSEUM

AUG 8,9,15,16,22,23,29,30, 2003	GARY V. HITS MUSIC MUSEUM	9:00PM
AUG 19, 2003	MAYA LEE IN CONCERT	8:30PM

FOR INQUIRIES & RESERVATION, PLS. CALL : 721-6726 OR 721-0635

THEATER MOVIE GUIDE

MANILA	
EASTERN	
MAXIM	CLOSED
MIRAMAR	SEX BOMB / RAMPADORA
ODEON	X-MEN 2
ODEON-2	BUKID AY BASA / KASIBULAN
ROBEN	BOLD STAR
TANDEM-1	SUGAT
TANDEM-2	KATAWAN MO LANGIT KO
TIMES	SPY LEGEND OF CROCODILE
QUEZON CITY	
ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	ORIGINAL SIN
ACT-4	HANGGANG KAILAN KA PAPATAY
CORONET A	MOTEL
CORONET B	A MAN APART
QUEZON-1	BERTUD NG PUTIK
REMAR	X-MEN 2
REMAR-2	BOLD STAR
NOVA MALL - NOVALICHES CINEMA	
A	MOTEL
B	SNAKE LADY
C	
MANDALUYONG CITY	
SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA-1	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
CINEMA-2	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
CAINTA RIZAL	
STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-5401 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	SABIK SA PAG-IBIG
CINEMA-2	MOTEL
CINEMA-3	SA PILING NG MGA BELYAS
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	BAD BOYS 2
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	TERMINATOR 3
CINEMA-6	LIGAYA PANTASYA NG BAYAN
CINEMA-7	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-8	MASAMANG UGAT
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	TOMB RAIDER 2
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	BAD BOYS 2
CINEMA-11 (SDDS)	THE IN-LAWS
CINEMA-12	BULLETPROOF MONK
CINEMA-14	SNAKE LADY
CINEMA-15	NAKED WEAPON
LORES	
CINEMA 2	[illegible]
CINEMA-3	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
NE CINEMAGIC - CABANATUAN	
CINEMA 1	LIZZIE McGUIRE
CINEMA 2	TOMB RAIDER 2
CINEMA 3	DOWN WITH LOVE
CINEMA 4	BULLETPROOF MONK
UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL	
(PARANAQUE)	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-1	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
CINEMA-2	MEN IN BLACK II
CINEMA 4	[illegible]



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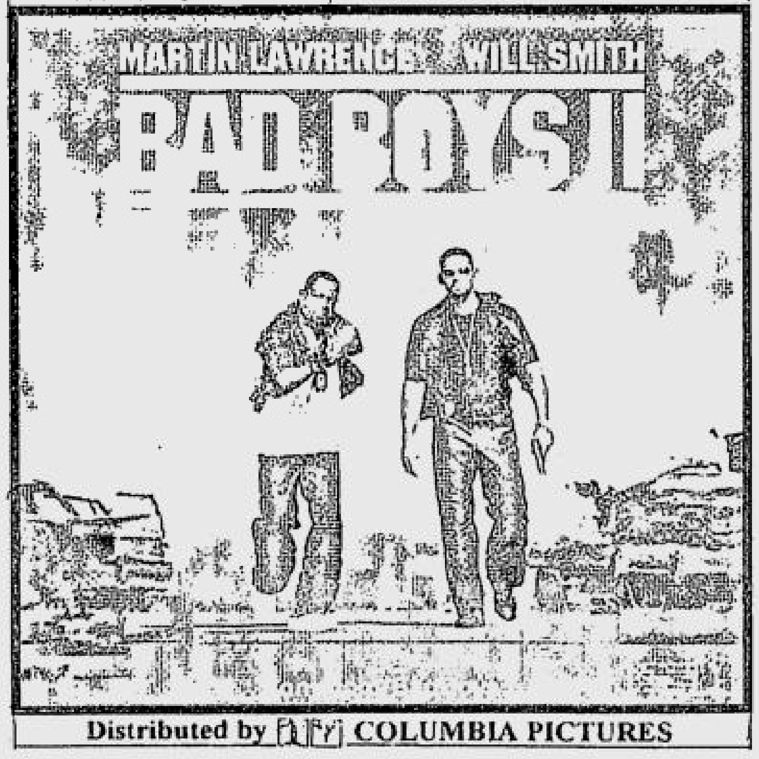

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OPENS AUGUST 13!
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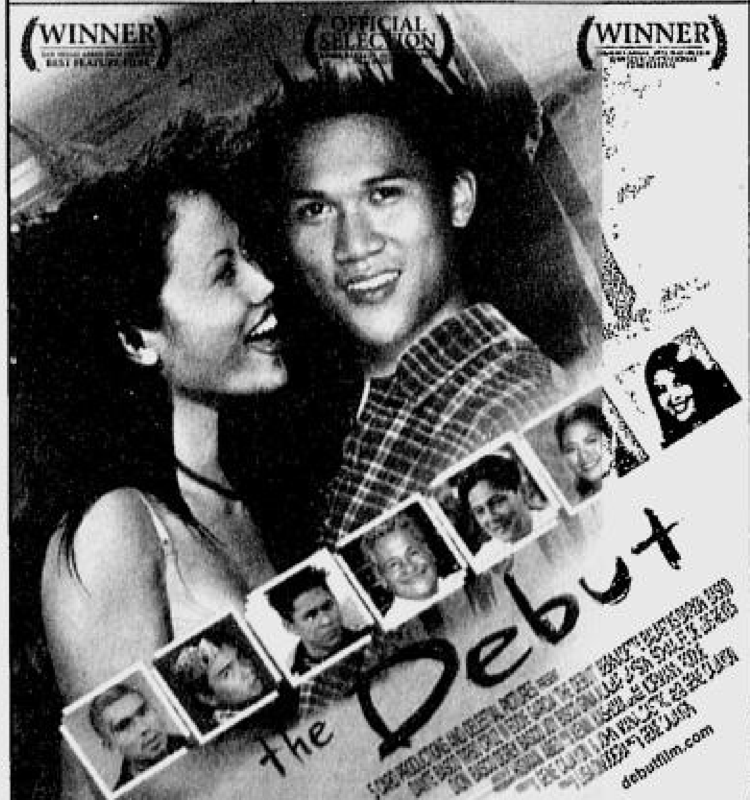

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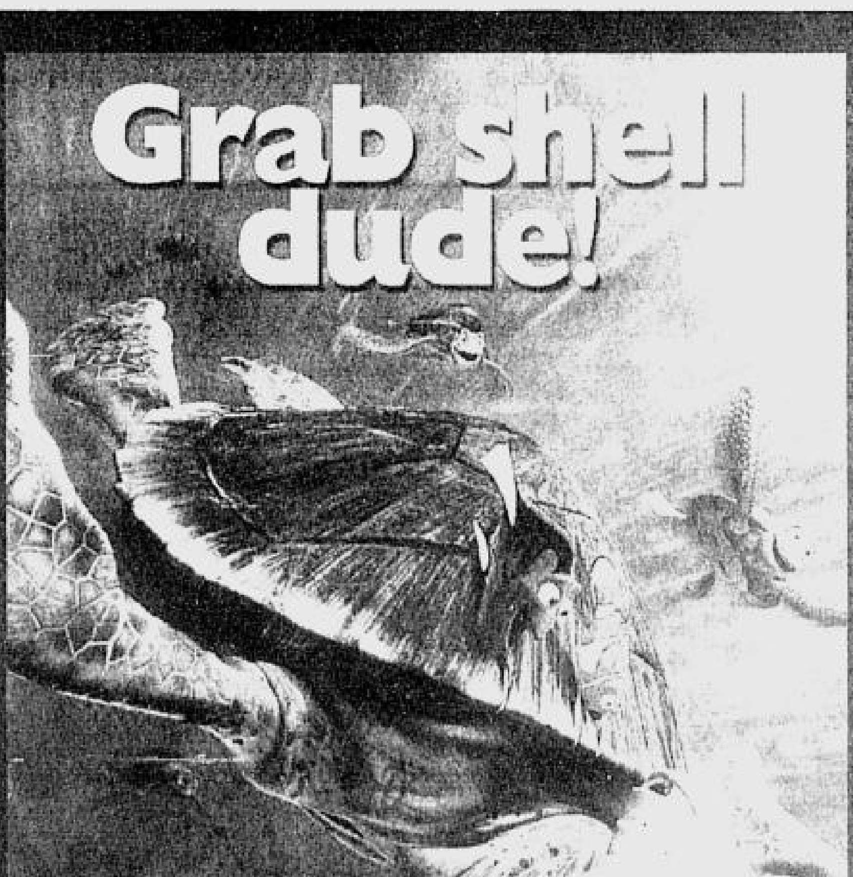
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Stars, directors express artistry in visual medium

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at the M Star Las Piñas
at 3pm!
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The Country's Pop Jewel
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Please be careful with my heart •
'Wag na lang •
Sugar •
To be with you (Fast version) •
Di na mahintay •
You can make it happen •
Love has come my way •
To be with you (Slow version) •
STAR
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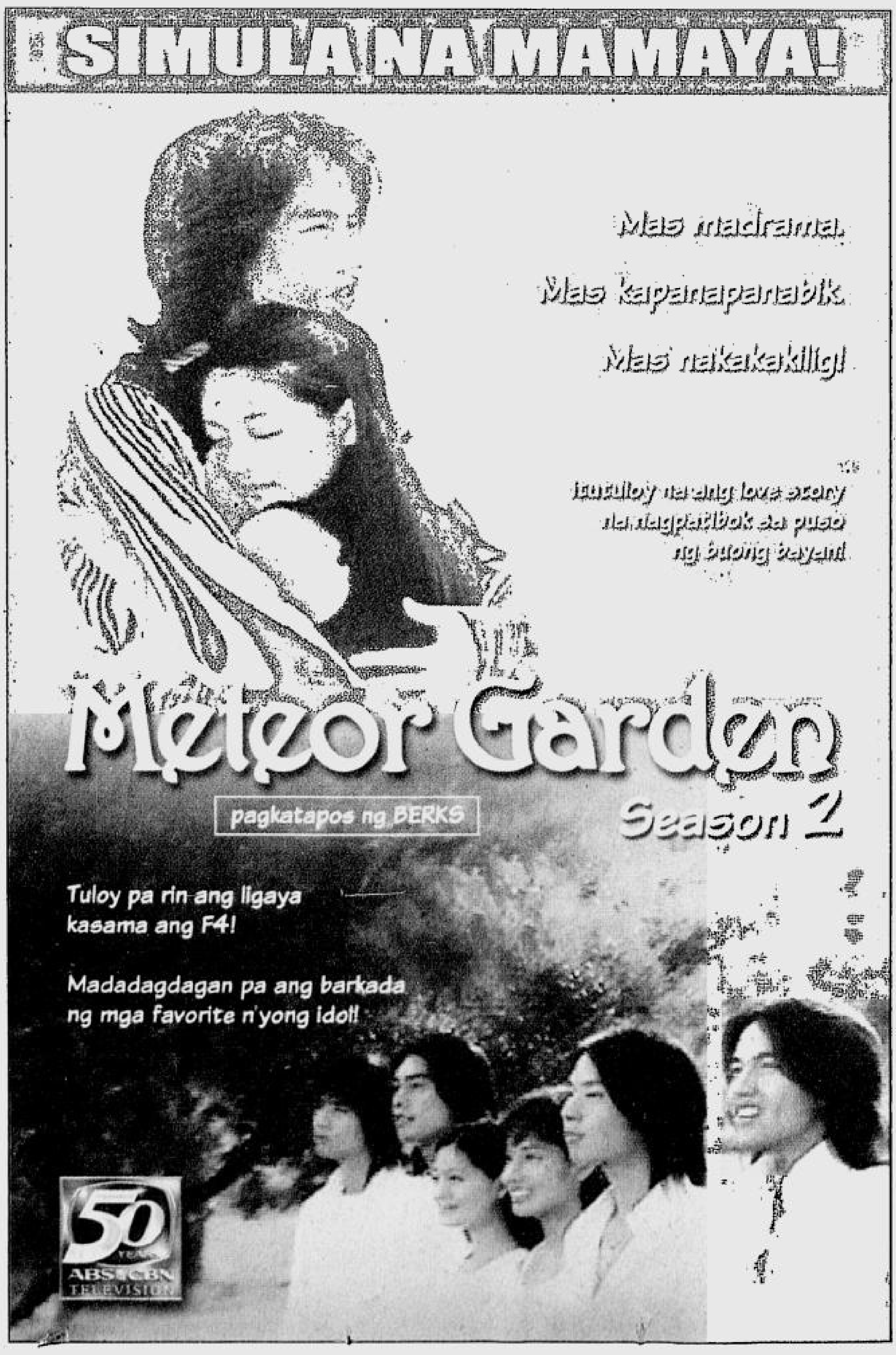

SIMULA NA MAMAYA!
Mas madrama.
Mas kapanapanabik.
Mas nakakakilig!
Itutuloy na ang love story
na nagpatibok sa puso
ng buong bayan!
Meteor Garden
pagkatapos ng BERKS
Season 2
Tuloy pa rin ang ligaya
kasama ang F4!
Madadagdagan pa ang barkada
ng mga favorite n'yong idol!
50 YEARS
ABS-CBN
TELEVISION

By Nestor U. Torre

FROM Aug. 14 to Sept. 13, Food and Arts Galerie (at GT Tower, Makati City) will showcase a unique exhibit of artworks painted by TV-movie stars and directors.

Special exhibit

The special exhibit, "Artists as Artists 2," features the visual artistry of directors Al Quinn and Danny Zialcita, and show biz luminaries Cesar Montano, Joey de Leon, Ma. Isabel Lopez, Snooky Serna, Baron Geisler, Cris Villanueva, Dranreb Belleza, Evangeline Pascual, Jao Mapa, Jeffrey Quizon, Lani Lobangco, Mark Aquino, Nadia Montenegro, Rachel Lobangco, Rommel Montano, Ruby Rodriguez, Victor Wood, and the recently departed Vic Vargas.

Movie fans will have a fun time looking at the "stellar" artworks at the exhibit, and discovering another side to their favorite stars.

Private sessions

Who would have thought, for example, that action-drama star Cesar Montano would be a "closet" painter? Fact is, however, Cesar has been painting for many years, and his having become a big, bankable star hasn't distracted him from his private sessions with brush, paint and canvas.

Some months ago, we caught Al Quinn's exhibit at the Glorietta complex in Makati, and we were particularly impressed with his finely-rendered drawings.

Some years ago, Joey de Leon invited us to his house to view the "interaction" paintings he did with some name visual artists, and the experience was both surprising and pleasing.

Early sketch

We are in possession of an early sketch by Ma. Isabel Lopez, done decades ago when she was a sexy star, and we treasure it for its deft rendering and witty experiment in abstraction.

When we were shooting Eddie Romero's "Hari sa Hari" in China, Vic Vargas showed us some of his clever sketches of farm animals and the like, and we were very taken by them.

Dranreb Belleza is a veteran visual artist despite his relative youth, because his love for painting goes back many years. His abstract style strikingly vivifies his complex personality.

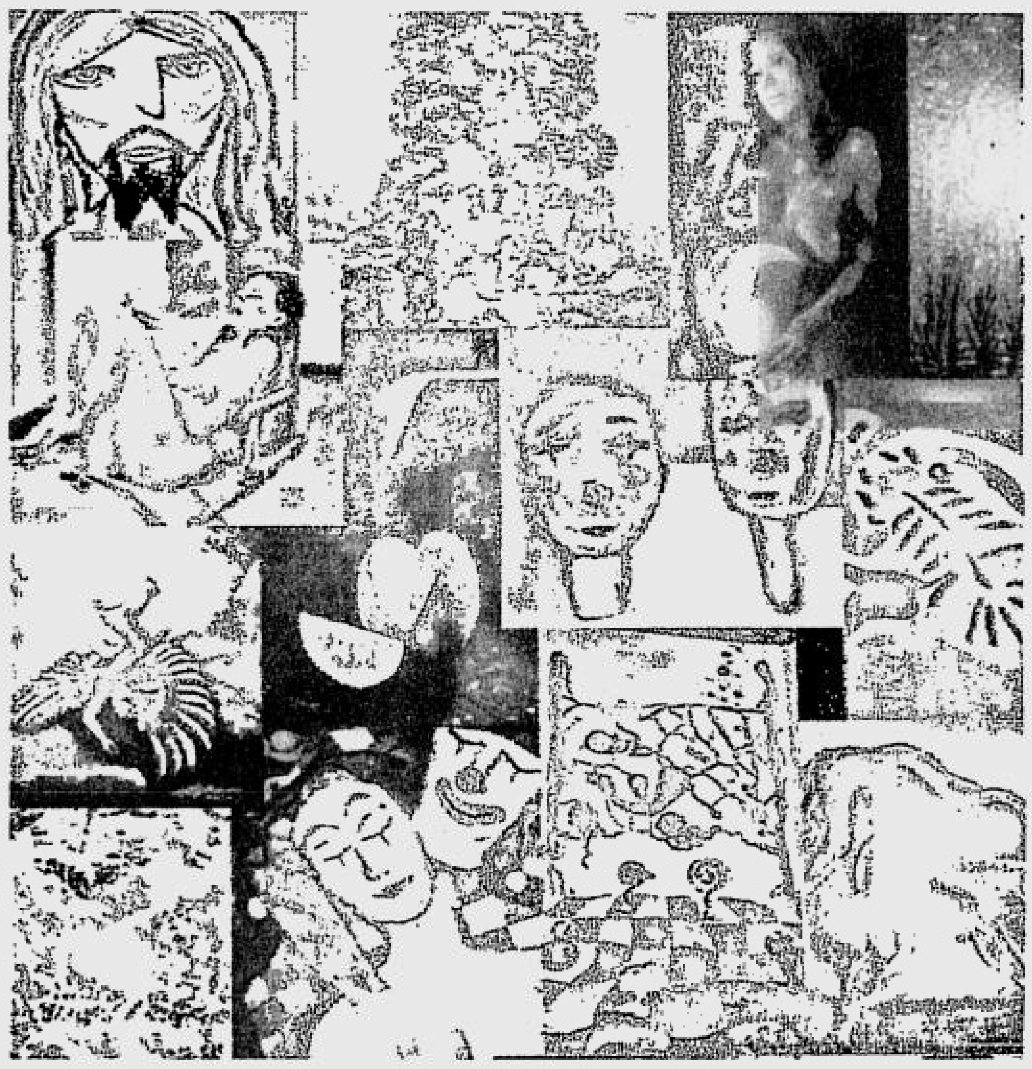
We're looking forward to viewing the paintings of director Danny Zialcita because we think the world of his classic sex comedies. We think it's such a pity that he hasn't made a new feature film in years.

No surprise

We've seen some of Jao Mapa's artworks featured in a newspaper, and they were finely rendered. This should come as no surprise, because Jao took visual arts subjects in college.

Among the stars whose paintings we have yet to see, we're most curious about the artworks of Snooky Serna and Cris Villanueva, because they are among our better screen thespians. It'll be a treat to see them expressing their artistry in another medium.

Finally, if there's still time, the gallery should try to get at least one painting each from director Leo Rialp, actor Ian Veneracion and singer Robert Seña, fine visual artists all.



PAINTINGS by show biz luminaries at "Artists as Artists 2" exhibit.

Perversions in our midst

LOTUS POND

R. Valencia and S. Bismark

ARE perversions within easy access in your own home? Most likely, if you have cable television and internet service.

Movies

Modern technology has made it possible for people to access all sorts of movies and websites filled with pornography. Parents and children can readily get connected to the world of lewdness and violence. There is no need to go to sex shops, it is all right there on TV.

It gets more intense with the use of the internet to browse websites offering depraved visuals.

Parents, teachers and leaders concerned about the welfare of young people should be very careful about using modern technology so freely and loosely. Parents often allow their kids to use the internet as a pastime or for games; they let them watch shows on cable television without supervision. This is inviting trouble.

Customers

We have a friend who turned her home into a netcafe. After some months, she gave up the business because many of her customers were visiting sexually perverted websites. It made her uncomfortable welcoming them into her home.

If we are irresponsible, we will be held accountable. If we allow the innocent to be corrupted, we will be held liable by the Supreme Authority. We will be responsible for our children's degradation.

This modern materialistic society has made us callous and uncaring about perversions. We are lulled into thinking they are acceptable and normal. It's time to cut the connection and pull the plug on all these degrading influences.

Sentimental without . . .

From page D6

himself.

Enduring compositions

Cruz has become well-known through the years, largely for such enduring compositions as "Bituing Walang Ningning," "Doon Lang," "Init sa Magdamag," "Kamusta Ka," "Pangarap na Bituin," "Sana'y Wala Nang Wakas," and "Never Say Goodbye."

As evinced by his two recent releases, Cruz not only excels in composing and arranging, but in playing the piano as well. He gives a polished performance in "Through the Rain."

Its slow, smooth feel is indicative of the rest of the tracks in this album—all of which are unhurried and tending towards the soulful.

OPM hits

Of course, the album also includes OPM hits like Rey Valera's "Walang Kapalit," Ogie Alcasid's "Kailangan Kita" and "Pangako Ikaw Lamang," as well as a song from his own trove, "Kahit Na."

Among the recent hits in this album are "You're Still You" (unforgettably rendered by Josh Groban in the original) and Mandy Moore's "Cry."

Old favorites like the Elvis Presley classic, "Can't Help Falling In Love," Elton John's "Sorry Seems To Be The Hardest Word," a medley of the Simon and Garfunkel "Bridge Over Troubled Waters" and Kevyn Lettau's "Bridges," and our personal favorite, "What Matters Most," will surely bring back sentimental memories.

Music

"The music hopes to help strengthen, heal, and restore hearts that need to be strong and whole again," says Cruz in the CD inlay.

That's a rather tall order for such a simple album, and we don't think it can fill it (what album can?). What we appreciate in "Through the Rain" is not the collective emotional response it evokes (as a good love song ought to stir up the emotion it sets out to evoke in the first place) but the refreshing simplicity of the rendering.

SATURDAY Special

Mick Jagger celebrates 60 years

JAGGER. Always seen as the group's calculating brain.
REUTERS

PRAGUE—Rolling Stones frontman Mick Jagger recently celebrated his 60th birthday in Prague, confirming his well-known refrain that time does indeed wait for no one.

Exclusive party

The man who used to be known as rock 'n' roll's Peter Pan entered his seventh decade at an exclusive party at the trendy Duplex club off central Wenceslas Square.

Jagger was greeted by shouts of "Happy Birthday, Mick" and "We love you" from a crowd of enthusiastic Czech fans and foreign tourists as he arrived for an evening bash attended by the rest of the band and a select list of VIPs.

Among those in attendance was fellow sexagenarian and former Czech President Vaclav Havel, a rock-lover who befriended the Stones during their first visit to then Czechoslovakia in 1990, shortly after the "velvet" revolution overthrew Communist rule.

World Tour

The Rolling Stones are in Prague for the latest leg of their "Forty Licks" world tour, and will be performing before an estimated 60,000 spectators in Letna park—an open area near the city's castle which witnessed several mass demonstrations during the 1989 revolution.

Michael Philip Jagger—"Sir Mick" since his 2002 knighting—was born in wartime south London, the son of a physical education teacher who introduced him to the limelight on the television show that he hosted.

At primary school, he met his future foil, Keith Richards, and in the early 1960s, they were joined by the band's doomed driving spirit, Brian Jones, drummer Charlie Watts and bass-player Bill Wyman to form the Rolling Stones—the name taken from a song by their blues hero, Muddy Waters.

"I knew what I was looking at. It was sex, and I was 48 hours ahead of the pack," said the band's manager Andrew Oldham on seeing Jagger onstage for the first time in the London suburb of Richmond.

The singer's lissome allure and his air of arrogant self-assurance made him the most symbolic figure of the 1960s youth revolution.

Changing values

Convicted on a minor drugs offense, he was the object of a seminal Times editorial—Who breaks a butterfly on a wheel?—which epitomized the decade's changing values.

In the 1970s, Jagger transformed into "Jumping Jack Flash"—sequinned showman at the head of the arrogantly named "Greatest Rock 'n' Roll band in the World"—as the Rolling Stones lived out the caricature with drug-fuelled recording sessions in French chateaux.

Always seen as the group's calculating brain, Jagger had frequent fallings-out with the more naturally rebellious Richards—but they always made up, as the band performed periodically, if not very successfully, in the 1980s and 1990s. *AFP*

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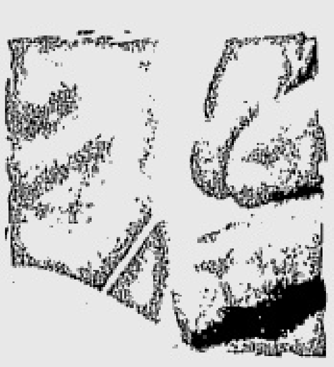

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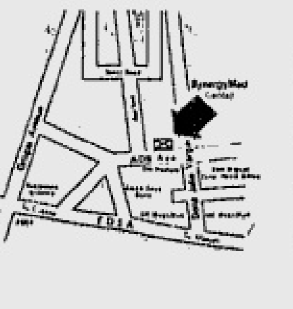

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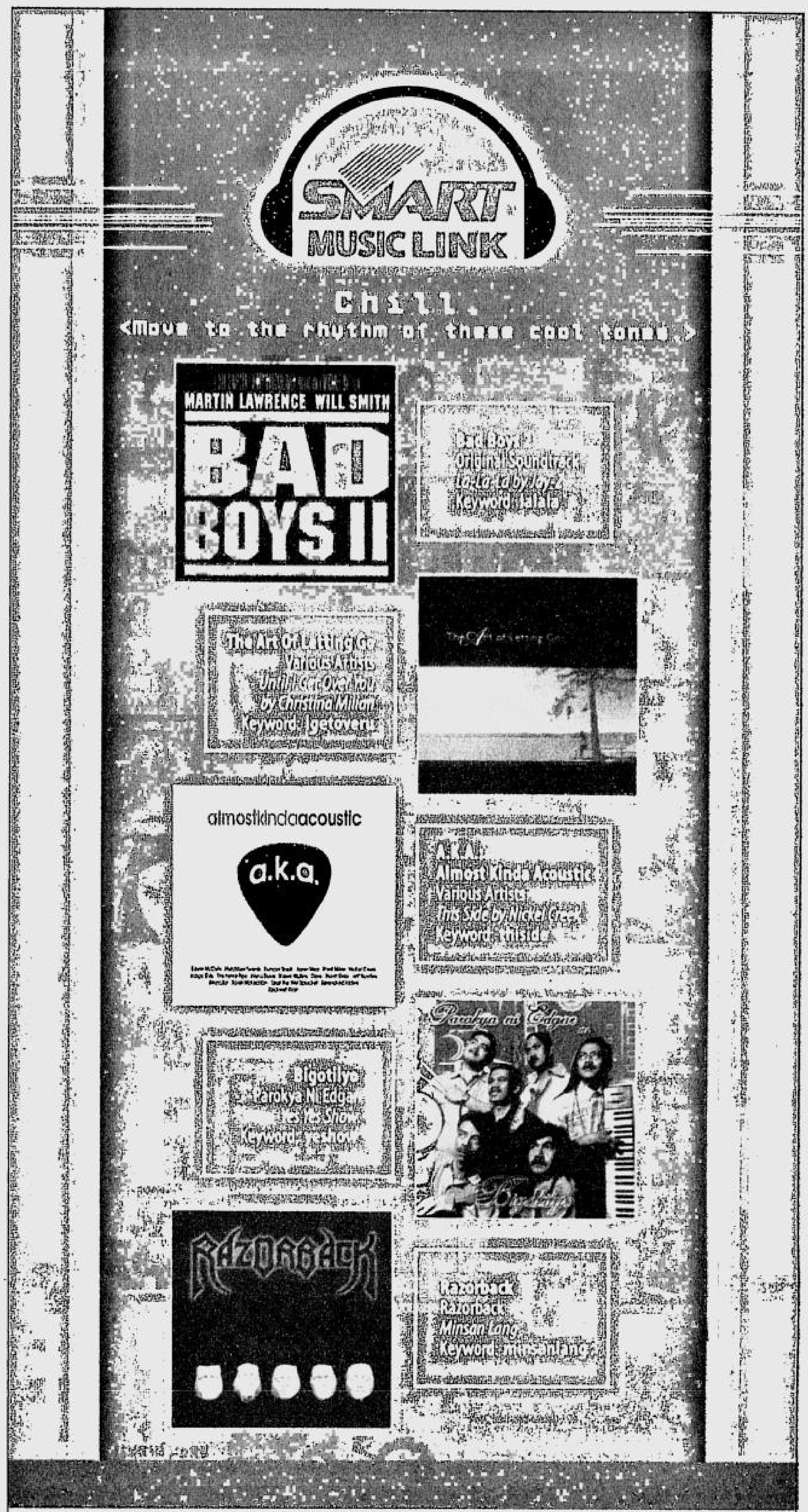

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Top 25 Albums of the Week
M music one

1	**A.K.A.: Almost Kinda Acoustic**	Various Artists	keyword: *thiside* keyword: *wannasing*
2	**Bigotilyo**	Parokya Ni Edgar	keyword: *yeshow*
3	**Nyoy Volante with Mannos**	Nyoy Volante	keyword: *watdoido*
4	**Michael Bublé**	Michael Bublé	
5	**The Lizzie McGuire Movie**	Original Soundtrack	
6	**Break Barriers**	Various Artists	
7	**Waking Hour**	Vienna Teng	
8	**The Art Of Letting Go**	Various Artists	keyword: *igetoveru* keyword: *lettinggo*
9	**Fantasy 4ever**	F4	
10	**Meteor Rain**	F4	
11	**Bad Boys 2**	Original Soundtrack	keyword: *lalala* keyword: *tailfeather*
12	**Come Away With Me**	Norah Jones	
13	**Mga Kuwento Ng Pag-ibig**	Ogie Alcasid	
14	**Dangerously In Love**	Beyoncé Knowles	
15	**Meteor Garden II**	Original Soundtrack	
16	**Round 2**	Sexbomb Girls	
17	**Hotel Paper**	Michelle Branch	
18	**Razorback**	Razorback	keyword: *minsanlang*
19	**Loving You**	Lani Misalucha	
20	**Let Me Be The One**	Jimmy Bondoc	
21	**Greatest Hits: An Audio Visual Anthology**	Regine Velasquez	
22	**Fallen**	Evanescence	
23	**Jose Llana**	Jose Llana	
24	**Heaven**	Nina	
25	**Here's To You**	Beverly Staunton	

Other Available Ringtones:
Where Is The Love by The Black Eyed Peas (keyword: *whereisdluv*)
Ignition Remix by R. Kelly (keyword: *ignition*)
Say My Name by Destiny's Child (keyword: *saymyname*)
Crazy In Love by Beyoncé Knowles (keyword: *crazyinluv*)
Get Busy by Sean Paul (keyword: *getbusy*)

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Varied film treats on Hallmark

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

IT'S an "amazing" August on the Hallmark Channel, particularly on its "9 p.m. Movie Premieres" slot, which showcases a number of viewable films:

Aug. 10, "Out of the Ashes"—Christine Lahti plays Holocaust survivor Dr. Gisella Perl, one of Eastern Europe's first female gynecologists.

Aug. 17, "Silent Night"—another "emerging from the ashes of war" story, this film is set on Christmas Eve in 1944. Three American and three German soldiers find themselves in the same isolated cabin in Germany's Ardennes forest.

Aug. 21 "Spotswood"—this deftly funny film topbills two Oscar winners, Anthony Hopkins and Russell Crowe. It pits a cold and aloof efficiency expert (Hopkins) against the oddball workers in a factory, who cluelessly welcome him with open arms.

Aug. 24, "Blind Terror"—A young widow meets and marries the man of her dreams. But their marriage becomes a nightmare when her husband's former love stalks them and turns violent.

Aug. 29, "Terror in the Family"—After their teenage daughter commits a rebellious act of violence, a loving family's world is turned topsy-turvy.

Aug. 31, "Monte Walsh"—This western chronicles the last days of an old cowboy, who is caught in the middle of a dying era and a changing world.

Movies on TV

On the HBO channel: Aug. 9 at 9:15 a.m., "Love and Basketball." 2:30 p.m., "Cast Away." 9 p.m., "Black Hawk Down." 12:15 a.m., "Forrest Gump." Aug. 10 at 11:10 p.m., "Riding in Cars with Boys."

Aug. 11 at 8 a.m., "The Accidental Tourist." 4:30 p.m., "Finding Forrester." Aug. 12 at 12:30 p.m., "Apollo 13." Aug. 13 at 8:30 a.m., "Lost in Yonkers." 10:30 a.m., "Children of A Lesser God."

Aug. 14 at 11 a.m., "Black Beauty." 10:30 p.m., "Training Day." Aug. 15 at 7:15 p.m., "The Running Man."

On Cinemax: Aug. 9 at 5:15 p.m., "My Horrible Year." 1:30 a.m., "Midway." Aug. 10 at 9:45 a.m., "Goodfellas." 12:15 a.m., "Journey to the Center of the Earth." Aug. 11 at 9 a.m., "Rear Window." 4 p.m., "The Graduate." 1:35 a.m., "The Bridges at Toko-Ri."

Aug. 12 at 6:30 a.m., "The Flying Dutchman." 2:30 a.m., "To Catch a Thief." Aug. 13 at 10:30 a.m., "When Worlds Collide." 5:45 p.m., "Dial M for Murder." 2:45 a.m., "From Here to Eternity."

Aug. 14 at 6:30 a.m., "The Caine Mutiny." 8:45 a.m., "Boyz N the Hood." 5 p.m., "The Sting." Aug. 15 at 1:25 a.m., "Rear Window."

Hard Rock Cafe

Anna Fegi will launch her new album at Hard Rock Cafe on Aug. 9. Other events at the popular entertainment venue:

Artist Night (Mondays) features Ron Antonio on Aug. 11 and Angel for A Cause on Aug. 25. On Aug. 12, Lana Jalosjos performs in a special show.

HOPKINS AND CROWE. Co-star in "Spotswood."

Cartoon Theater special

"Cartoon Theater" on Cartoon Network presents the premiere of "Justice League" at 11 a.m. on Aug. 9.

Paolo Santos and Pido

Every Wednesday until Sept. 3, PLDT is taking Paolo Santos and Pido on a performance tour. Schedule: Aug. 13, the Forum at the Podium. Aug. 20, Ratsky's Malate. Aug. 27, Dish. Sept. 3, Ratsky's Tomas Morato.

Monthly finals

Three weekly winners will compete for a slot in the grand finals of Channel 7's "Search for A Star" tonight at six, in the singing tilt's second monthly finals.

'Sharon'

Sharon Cuneta's Channel 2 show on Aug. 10 will feature back-to-back episodes with Gary Valenciano and Lea Salonga. Gary will be feted by members of his family on his birthday and his 20th anniversary in show biz, while Lea holds a bridal shower and demonstrates her homemaking skills.

Teens' Voice Awards

At 6 p.m. on Aug 9 at the Philsport Arena (formerly Ultra), Levi's Teens' Voice Awards 2003 will be launched. Guest celebrities include Donita, Dingdong Dantes, Nina and Gabe Mercado.

Teens are invited to determine who and what is the best in music, television, music, fashion, sports and technology. Nomination period runs until Sept. 7. Call 914-2028 for inquiries.

'Adventure Inc.'

On Aug. 9, Star World's "Adventure Inc." telecasts "Memento Mori," an episode in which the show's resident team is hired by the UN Director of International Drug Enforcement to go to Cambodia to look for his helicopter, which was shot down during the Vietnam War.

AM/FM

A Nora Aunor 'shrine' on the air

By Rito P. Asilo

THE SPARKLING vocal quality of the singer was familiar.

New title

We're talking about Nora Aunor, the singing-acting icon known to many people as the country's only Superstar. Every succeeding big-time actress worth her salt had to coin a new title for herself ("Star for All Seasons;" "Megastar;" "Diamond Star;" "Star of the New Decade," etc.), because the Superstar title was already taken, almost copyrighted, for life.

If you're one of the people who followed her ups and downs through the '70s and '80s, or one of the young fans *Ate* Guy has recently "converted," courtesy of her recent stint on "Bituin," you'd probably enjoy dwAD's show biz commentary show (1098 kHz at 2 p.m. weekdays), hosted by the feisty, opinionated *Kuya* Ompang.

AUNOR. Singing-acting icon known as the country's only Superstar.

It features news about La Aunor's current projects, as well as controversies that continue to hound her.

On the show, *Kuya* Ompang shared that Aunor breezed through the taping of GMA 7's "Magpakailanman," in which she plays a nun. *"Kinontak siya ng* 'Maalaala Mo Kaya,' *pero syempre* committed *na si Ate* Guy *doon sa nauna,"* he reasoned.

Mutation

What struck us about the program was that, despite its entertainment show format, it felt like a mutation of show biz and politics fused together.

The host announced upcoming activities of Aunor's fan clubs—the Federation of Nora Aunor Followers and Ganap (don't they sound like NGOs?), which were scheduled to hold, as he described it, a "*pagdiriwang, hindi* protest rally" to "celebrate," despite the non-inclusion of Aunor's film among the official entries to the Metro Manila Filmfest this December.

Lecture

Then, he segued to a lecture aimed at a Ganap officer, who allegedly stood up an event of the group: "Imagine, *siya pa mismo ang hindi sumipot?!* Resign! *Sumama ka na kay* Corpus!," he demanded. It's like getting exposed to a totally different subculture! We wouldn't be surprised if these groups have their own Sonas, as well.

When he isn't defending Aunor against the latest controversy thrown her way, he dishes out his thoughts on the latest *intrigas*.

Apparently, this no-holds-barred style is what keeps his listeners glued to their radio sets. And advertisers know this: We listed many advertisements on the show: for *hopia*, bleaching soap, infant wear, food flavoring, filing cabinets, toothpaste—even an eyeshadow brand!

'Asalto'

FACE TO FACE

Inday Badiday

DEAR Clara,

I swear, I thought I had died and gone up to heaven! I woke with a start and, as I opened my eyes, my ears caught the faint strains of a strangely familiar tune, which I conveniently mistook as the melodious voices of angels. I felt giddy. I didn't know what to make of it.

Birthday

It was 11 p.m. on Tuesday, Aug. 5, a mere hour away from my birthday—but I didn't figure it all out right away until your dad opened the door and came into the room, which allowed your vibrant birthday song to pleasantly assault my eardrums. As what you were doing started to sink in, unbidden tears started to find their way down my Bell's Palsied cheeks.

There you were—Dolly, Ricky and you, together with Bianchi and IC, your Tito Butch, Tita Pilar and Trisha, your Tito Tad and Tita Eli, and Kara, too.

You were not a lot, but the family was well represented. Your voices were a little discordant—but absolutely cherubic to my ears. You didn't have a birthday cake with lit candles I could have blown—but it was my heart you set ablaze, and it was all I could do to blow away the raging fire there. It was potluck for eats—*bibingka, siomai, biko* and spaghetti—but it was my soul you fed abundantly that night!

Hugs and kisses

Good thing you all went to the dining table right after the hugs and kisses, because that allowed me to spare you the awkwardness of my bawling away. Yes, the tears first came in trickles, until they became like the flood during Noah's time. They were, of course, happy tears—and they were the kind that only family can bring out.

I'm very sorry for not talking to my late-night callers—particularly your Tita Pat from Florida and your Tita Annette from New York. I'm not vying for any best actress award, but I know I'd have been a shoo-in winner, had I talked to them, because of all the tears that were begging to burst out of my eyes that night. Of course, you know, Clara, how OA I can get when I allow my emotions to hold sway.

I was struck by one realization: That Tuesday night affair was the first time that the family had ever given me an *asalto* for my birthday—and it felt very good deep down. In the past, I either celebrated the special day abroad, or it was my Loca Productions staff that did everything to make the occasion truly exciting—which always relegated the family to the background and not on the forefront, where, I now realize, you really belong. The family then was just a necessary prop to my birthday parties and not the center, which I should have allowed it to be.

Special place

Pero iba pala talaga ang tama pag pamilya. The elaborate surprises that my TV staff whipped up for me are all a blur to me now—but that little surprise you pulled last Tuesday night has a very special place in my heart.

I remember, there was one surprise party my staff plotted for me at our beach house in Cavite, where all the guests—including some pretty big stars—lined up on both sides of the road holding gas lamps hoisted on bamboo shafts, singing the birthday song as the car that brought me there slowly snaked its way through. It was a special drama that my staff painstakingly perfected for me—but I was too drunk to appreciate any of it!

My staff always went to great lengths to make their birthday schemes for me a big surprise—but I always got wind of their plans and ended up simply pretending to be surprised. The surprise birthday celebrations I had live on "See-True" and, later, on "Eye to Eye" were also quite spectacular. But it was all show business: all show—and business!

Heart and soul

Of course, it had heart and soul. And it had all the glitz and glam that show biz could provide. But, *iba pala talaga ang tama pag pamilya*. I never cried at any of my birthday celebrations before. They were fun and I thoroughly enjoyed them, but they couldn't quite enter that place inside me that, I now realize, is reserved only for family.

Clara, I want most especially to thank Dolly and Ricky, who lovingly labored to make last Tuesday's *asalto* a reality. I understand, they kept you in the

'ASALTO'/ E3

YOUR WEEKLY TV GUIDE FROM AUG. 9 - AUG. 15

CH									
	6 30 Magandang Gabi, Bayan 7 30 Buttercup 9 00 Arriba, Arriba 10 30 Kontrobersyal 11 30 "F" 12 00 Sports Unlimited	7 00 Yan Ang Pinoy 8 00 The Working President 9 00 To be Announced	7 00 Sailormoon Sailor Stars 7 30 Mirror, Mirror 8 00 Wow Mali! 9 00 Viva Box Office *Gaano Kadalas ang Minsan* 11 00 Go For Gold	6 00 Search for a Star 6 30 Imbestigador 7 30 Idol Ko Si Kap 8 30 Kakabakaba 9 30 Blockbuster Cinema 11 20 Flash Report 11 30 Master Showman	5 00 Isumbong Mo Kay Tulfo 7 00 7 Days 8 00 John Doe 9 00 Saturday Night Playhouse 11 00 PGMA	7 00 Global Family Series 7 30 Kidscetera 8 00 Amazing Twins 9 00 Fearless	6 00 Baywatch 7 00 Game Plan 7 30 The Amazing Race 8 30 Boston Public 9 30 Studio 23 Presents 11 30 Reel Deal	7 00 Xclusive Cinema Special 9 00 Oras Ng Kalolohanan 9 30 Armor of God 10 00 Oh Tokyo 11 00 Pinoy Wrestling	5 30 CBS Evening News 6 00 E! News Weekend 7 00 Celebrity Profile 8 00 E! True Hollywood Story 10 00 David Letterman 11 00 Wild On
	5 30 Sharon 7 00 Wansapanataym 8 30 Home Along Da Riles 9 30 Sunday Family Cinema 11 30 Dong Puno Tonight 12 00 The Weekend News	4 00 2003 Samsung-PBA Invitational Championsips 9 00 The Working President 10 00 Concert of Various Artist *Kylie Minogue*	6 00 Zorro 6 30 Guylero 7 00 Ispup atpb 8 00 Sing-Galing 9 00 Viva Cine Idols 11 00 Speed	5 30 Partners Mel & Jay 7 00 KI 8 30 Daddy Di Do Du 9 30 Sunday Night Box Office 11 20 Flash Report 11 30 Che-Che Lazaro Presents	6 00 Smack Down Wrestling 7 00 Ripley's Believe It or Not 8 00 Match TV 9 00 Sunday's Big Event 11 00 Sunday Report	4 00 2003 Samsung-PBA Invitational Championsips 9 00 Sinemaks 11 00 Global Family Series 11 30 El Shaddai	6 00 Jimmy Neutron 6 30 Futurama 7 00 Exposed 8 00 Yes Dear 8 30 Spin City 9 00 Will & Grace 9 30 The Bachelor 10 30 Digital Tour	7 00 Sunday Mini-Series 8 00 Oh Tokyo 9 00 Sunday Night movies	5 30 CBS Evening News 6 00 E! Coming Attractions 6 30 FYE 7 00 E! Original Specials 8 00 Rank 9 00 Revealed w/ Jules Asner 10 00 Movies on E!
	6 00 TV Patrol 6 30 Kay Tagal Kang Hinintay 7 00 Basta't Kasama Kita 7 30 Game K N B? 8 00 Darating Ang Umaga 8 30 Sana'y Wala Nang Wakas 9 00 Bida Si Mister, Bida Si Misis 11 00 Headlines 11 30 The Correspondents	6 00 Concert at the Park 7 00 Strangebrew 7 30 In the Raw 8 00 TeleDyaryo 10 00 Family Rosary Crusade 11 00 Auto Focus	6 00 F 6 30 Balitang-Balita 7 00 Problema Nyo, Sagot Ko 7 30 Kool on Kam 8 30 That 70s Show 9 00 On Air 9 30 Misadventures of Maverick and Ariel 10 00 The Big News 10 30 Mad TV	6 15 Frontpage 7 00 Lavender 7 40 Habang Kapiling Ka 8 10 Ang Ibigin Ay Ikaw Pa Rin 8 50 Narito Ang Puso Ko 9 30 Da Boy and Da Girl 11 00 Saksi 11 30 I-Witness	5 00 Crayon Shin Chan 6 30 Entertainment Tonight 7 00 Just for Laffs 8 00 Jag 9 00 Harsh Realm 10 00 Newswatch Now 10 30 Sex & the City 11 00 OPTV	6 00 Quantum Info 6 30 Global Family Series 7 00 Japan Video Topics 9 00 Global Family Series 9 30 Fight Time at Elorde 10 30 IBC News Tonite 11 00 Linawin Natin	6 00 Beast Machines 6 30 Godzilla 7 00 Batman 7 30 Samurai X 8 00 Birds of Prey 9 00 Charmed 10 00 News Central 10 30 Oprah 11 30 Travel Time	6 30 Q Showcase 7 30 Oras ng Kalolohanan 8 00 Q Showcase 9 00 Ang Dating Daan	6 00 E! News Live 7 00 Behind The Scenes 7 30 Mysteries & Scandals 8 00 E! True Hollywood Story 9 00 E! News Live 10 00 Best of Late Show 11 00 Wild On
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Updates on 'Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban'

SHOW BIZ Q & A

Rito P. Asilo

OUR Q and A for this week:

From Robert Baiquin: **"Please give us updates on 'Harry Potter.' Is it true Steven Spielberg almost directed the first two Potter movies?"**

While it's true that Spielberg was the first choice to helm the original Potter movie, it didn't "hook" him enough to accept the offer. The UK Telegraph quoted him as saying: "That first story ('The Sorcerer's Stone') didn't touch me creatively. Now, the third Harry Potter book ('The Prisoner of Azkaban')—it's pure genius! It's darker, more esoteric and interesting. If they had offered me that, I'd have said yes."

Boy wizard

In "Azkaban," a notorious prisoner escapes from the prison for wizards, and is believed to have his murderous sights set on our favorite boy wizard. Michael Gambon takes over from Richard Harris as Albus Dumbledore. And Gary Oldman is cast as the sinister Sirius Black.

David Thewlis, not Ewan McGregor as reported earlier, plays Remus Lupin, and John Cleese is cast as Nearly Headless Nick.

Sorry, Sean Biggerstaff fans, it looks like your favorite Quidditch captain doesn't get any screen time in "Azkaban," since the creators have decided to scrap the Quidditch scenes.

It looks like Potter will go head-to-head at the box-office against the "Garfield" CGI movie (which features the voices of Jennifer Love Hewitt as Dr. Liz Wilson; Breckin Meyer as Jon Arbuckle; Debra Messing as Arlene the Cat and Bill Murray as Garfield).

Director

Even the director of the third film is new—this time, it's Alfonso Cuaron, more known for his dark, sexual, coming-of-age film, "Y Tu Mama Tambien."

Before Potter fans start hyperventilating at the thought of sex and hormones in the third Potter film, it may be helpful to know that Cuaron has also directed a memorable children's film, "A Little Princess."

EMMA Watson and Daniel Radcliffe reprise their roles in the third "Harry Potter" film.

Chris Columbus begged off because he said he missed his family and had wanted to spend more time with them—although he stayed on as an executive producer. And he said he was open to the idea of directing the fourth Potter film ("The Goblet of Fire").

From Annafer Lirio: **"I'm crazy about 'The Amazing Race'! Whatever happened to the contestants—Flo and Zach, the Riker twins, Reichen and Chip—after the race?"**

Since that may take some space, we'll do these updates in installments:

Partners Reichen and Chip are among the most popular, along with eliminated models Tian and Jarre, in the current "Amazing Race 4." They live in posh El Camino Drive in Beverly Hills.

Reichen Lehmkuhl is from Boston and went to the Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs after high school. He didn't realize he was gay at the time. He is a pilot and owns an airlines brokerage service, Tribe Airways, which charters planes to fly all over the world.

Billboards

At 6'1" with a buff body and chiseled features, he also graces billboards in California for a men's perfume, as well as covers and pages of magazines.

Asked how much it would cost to travel on his high-end planes, Reichen replies, "A roundtrip airfaire from LA to New York is $75,000, but that includes use of the plane, fuel, pilots, catering, ground transportation and cleaning—the whole package." Sounds like a lucrative business!

Chip (real name: Russell Arndt), an investment entrepreneur, and Reichen have signed confidentiality contracts not to reveal who won the current race. Episodes concurrently telecast here and in the US were shot in September 2002.

East Asia Women's Convention honors Cory Aquino

By Nestor U. Torre

COMPOSER and TV-theater producer Lourdes "Bing" Pimentel has her hands full with her civic and artistic activities. This month, she's even busier than usual because her Millennium Women for Peace and Development Foundation is holding the first East Asia Women's Convention for Global Peace from Aug. 11 to 13 at the Manila Hotel.

Founding president

Bing is the founding president and chairperson of the foundation, the idea for which was born when she attended prayer for peace rallies in Butuan City and Cagayan de Oro City two years ago. The large turnout at the rallies convinced her that many people desperately wanted peace.

The foundation is made up of Christian and Muslim women leaders in community service, the professions, social welfare and business. They want to help establish peaceful and progressive communities where Muslims and Christians can co-exist, and people are empowered to attain their full potential.

PIMENTEL. Composed new song for the event.

Evacuees

To further these ends, they seek to put up a pilot rehabilitation area for evacuees and victims of the armed conflict in Mindanao.

Other endeavors include the construction of a women's center in Agusan del Norte, and housing and community development projects in Marawi City.

This month, however, they are focusing on successfully holding the first East Asia Women's Convention. One of the convention's highlights is the presentation of the East Asian Women's Peace Award, an annual honor which is being initially conferred this year on former President Corazon Aquino. The convention's guest of honor and keynote speaker is President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo.

Organizers

Other foundation and convention organizers this year include over-all chairperson Rosellyn E. Magsaysay, co-chairperson Bai Omera D. Lucman, secretary-general Minerva de Leon, Zorayda A. Tamano, Dr. Zenaida Pangandaman-Gania, Norma Lozano, Barbara Anonas, Norhata Alonto, Jamila Lucman, Gloria Cortez, Pery Arkoncel, and Nahar Lazo.

Prominent women leaders from East Asian countries have been invited to attend the convention to give it a regional dimension.

For her part, aside from helping organize and fund the convention, Bing Pimentel has composed a song, "Language of Love" especially for the event.

The song's lyrics stress the importance of mutual understanding and unity despite some perceived differences between people, and urges everyone to focus, not on what keeps us apart, but on what makes us one:

"Language of Love"
By Lourdes "Bing" Pimentel

Do you feel the beating of your heart?
Do you see the sun from where you stand?
Do you feel the wind when you run and feel romantic when the moon brightly shines?
Do you feel the joy and love, and hope
Do you feel the pain, ache and hurt?

Do you wish you were here with me
Singing the language of love
Painting the future of hope
Living the life of peace?
But how can we, how can we?

Life, poles apart, strangers at heart
Miles away—
So how can we, how can we?

Let us sing the language of love
Listen to voices from afar,
Painting the future with our children, as one—
Live our lives as children of peace!

Paolo Montalban wants to have the best . . .

From page E4

Filipino, to better assimilate American culture.

Friend

But music has always been a big part of Paolo's life. "It's like a friend when no one's around," he smiles. "I'll never get lonely because I can always sing."

He comes from a family with a strong musical background, but Paolo chose to take pre-med in college. "Because I wanted to be the first singing pediatric cardiologist," he explains, chuckling.

Unfortunately, his true passion lay somewhere else. By his third year, Paolo shifted to Psychology. Still, he managed to graduate on time.

Big break

Eventually, Paolo was lured to the stage, bagging roles in musicals like "Man of La Mancha." Then came his big break: playing the role of Prince Charming in the television reworking of the classic fairy tale, "Cinderella," which gave him the chance to work with pop stars Whitney Houston and Brandy. He also became a member of the Screen Actors' Guild.

After "Cinderella," Paolo was cast in the TV series "Mortal Kombat." He also plays a Filipino-American soldier in the forthcoming Miramax presentation, "The Great Raid," costarring with Benjamin Bratt, Joseph Fiennes and Cesar Montano.

And the list will surely go on as Paolo's gone back to Los Angeles, where he's been based since 1999, to audition for roles in new TV and movie projects.

But he promises to come back, to add to what he's accomplished here so far: recording his debut album, promoting it, hosting special shows, and being a part of Channel 7's musical variety program, "SOP."

"Hopefully, my plan will work out," he enthuses. "Wouldn't it be great to have satisfying careers in the US and here? It'd be like having the best of both worlds!"

'Asalto'

From page E2

dark about their plans because you might let slip something and ruin the surprise for me. I am deeply touched by it all, Clara. I am eternally grateful! And I thank God for the opportunity to peel off another layer of motherhood and family I never knew before.

Dear child, for three weeks now since my nerves acquired a severe case of attitude, courtesy of Bell's Palsy, I've been swimming in and out of fever—and loneliness. I've been struggling hard to put on a brave front and maintain a happy disposition but, I have to confess, I've had bouts of feeling sorry for myself, combined with bittersweet memories of how swell the past days had been. I've managed to hold on—with only my faith in God to see me through the nights.

What happened last Tuesday night clicked the lights on for me again, Clara. I've regained my reason for being and for living. And I've rediscovered once more my capacity to smile and hope, and believe in the miracle of life.

Dearest Clara, I hereby resolve to never take the family for granted again.

Promise!

Regine on 'Inday, Heart to Heart'

Asia's Songbird, Regine Velasquez, regales us with inspiring stories about her journey towards the success she has attained in our intimate talk with her tomorrow on "Inday, Heart to Heart," 10 a.m., GMA-7.

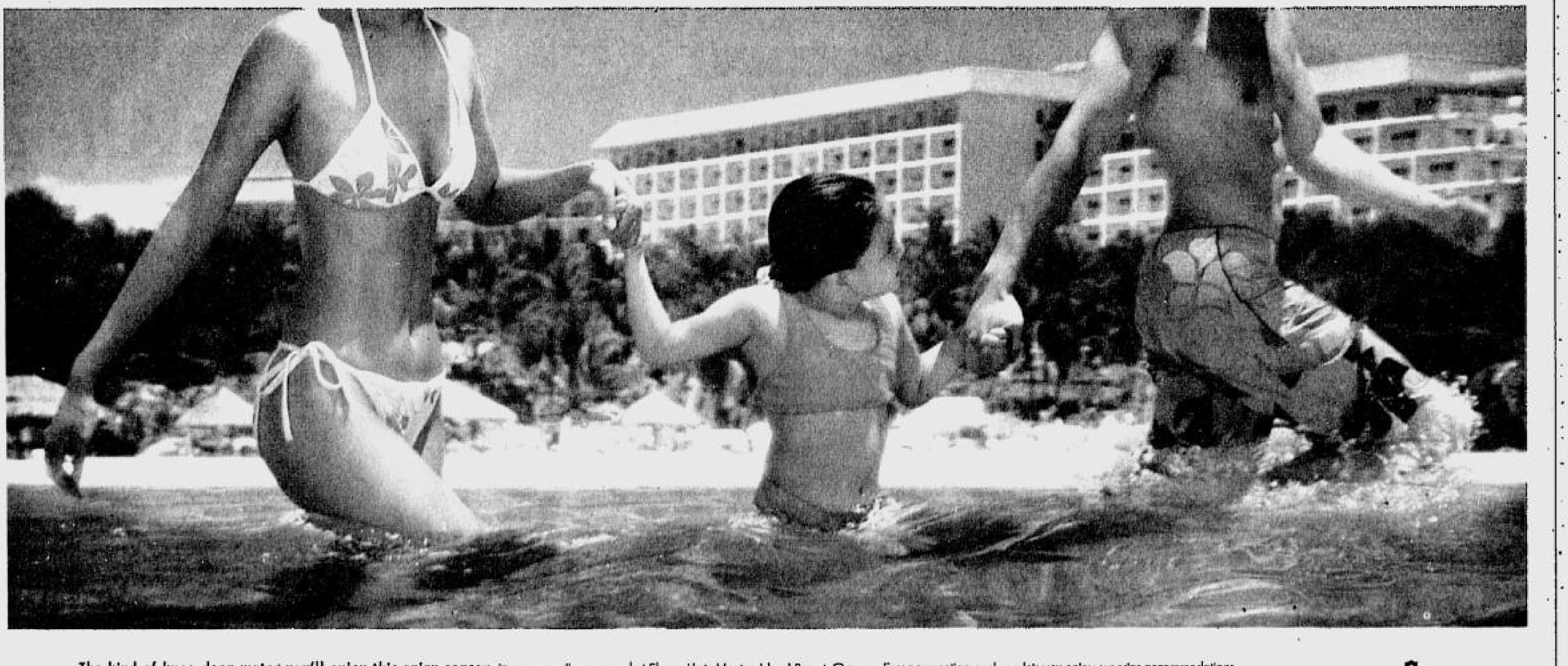
We'd like to thank our sponsors: San Miguel Corp. (Coca Cola, Royal Tru Orange, Sprite, Lift and Viva Mineral Water), Samsung, Tender Bob's Steaks, Potion Planet, Home & Lifestyle, American Blues, Yamaha Clavinova, Celine shoes and the Philippine Daily Inquirer.

New Filscap board

President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo took time out from her busy schedule to administer the oath of office to the new board of directors of the Filipino Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers Inc. (Filscap) in Malacañang recently.

The new Filscap board continues to promote and propagate the intellectual rights of musical artists under RA 8293. For any use of musical property in a public performance in public places (radio, TV, cable, hotels, restaurants, shops, moviehouses, theaters, department stores, supermarkets, coffeeshops, dancing/music schools, airlines, offices, etc.), please get in touch with Filscap at 1365 E. Rodriguez Sr. ave, (721-3903, 721-3768, 410-0733, 411-1115).

The newly inducted Filscap board is composed of George Canseco, Heber Bartolome, Nonoy Tan, Vehnee Saturno, John Lesaca, Snaffu Rigor, Emmie Domingo, Junn Sta. Maria, Marivic Benedicto, Bella Dy-Tan, Rudy Tee, Ramon Chuaying and Wally Chamsay.



The kind of knee-deep water you'll enjoy this rainy season. It's summer all year round at Shangri-La's Mactan Island Resort. Our new Escape vacation package lets you enjoy superior accommodations for two with buffet breakfast, airport transfers and, of course, the sun, for only P4,500++. And because we want to make sure you enjoy your stay, we'll give you a rebate* if it does rain.
At Shangri-La's Mactan Island Resort, now is the best time to come over. For inquiries and reservations call (032) 231-0288.

*20% discount on Food & Beverage charges if it rains for at least 3 hours. Rate is subject to service charge and applicable government taxes. Prior reservations required and is subject to availability. Proof of Philippine residency is required upon check-in. Offer is valid until September 30, 2003 (except August 10-16). Mactan Island Resort is in Punta Engaño Road, Lapu-Lapu City 6015, Cebu, Philippines. Per DTI-Cebu Permit No.798 Series of 2003

Shangri-La's
Mactan Island Resort
CEBU, PHILIPPINES

Paolo Montalban wants to have the best of both worlds

MONTALBAN. True passion.

By Jocelyn Valle

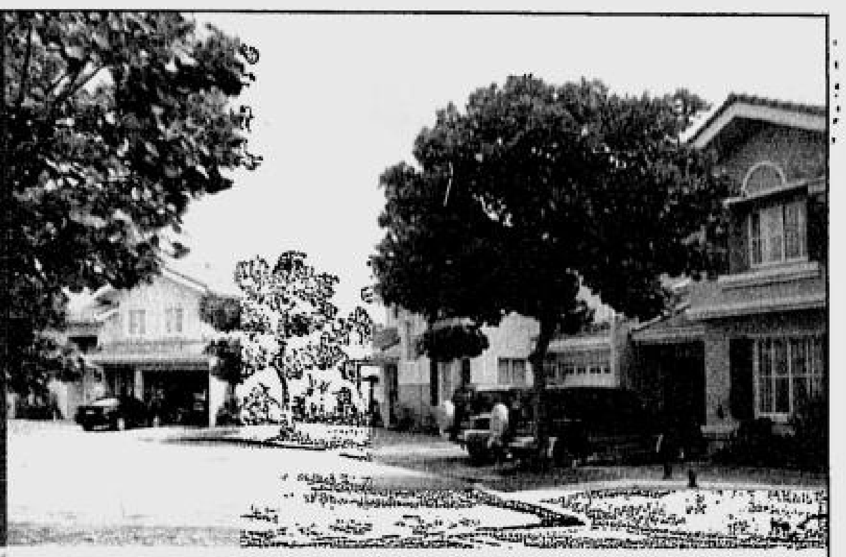
PAOLO Montalban croons Jose Mari Chan's "Can We Just Stop and Talk Awhile," when asked about his earliest memory of Filipino music. "I love that song," he beams.

When he got a little older, Paolo recalls listening to some Sharon Cuneta songs. "Then my mom stopped playing (Filipino music)."

He adds that their parents also discouraged him and his sister from learning how to speak

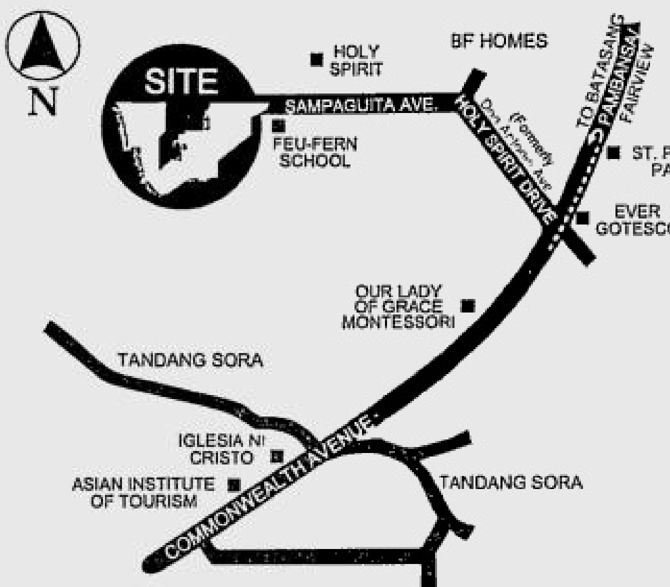
PAOLO/ E3

We encourage noise pollution.



When you're living in Ferndale Homes, you'll always have something to sing about. We've made Ferndale a place where neighborly interaction is easy. By arranging homes in clusters, we're giving you the freedom to venture out and meet the people around you. And with amenities like a neighborhood social hall, jogging paths, a basketball court, a tennis court and a children's playground, it's no wonder people can't help getting together.

We call it making a good neighborhood, you can call it home.



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Buyers can save as much as 6 percent on Ferndale Homes units. Further making the good life within the reach of more people, Ayala Land also offers flexible payment schemes with reduced premiums. With a minimum of 10 percent down payment and another 10 percent over six to eight months, and the remainder with the assurance of bank-financing, buyers can own their dream Ayala home in Quezon City. These friendly payment schemes can be availed for Phase 3 of Ferndale Homes. With Phase 3A scheduled for turnover by October 2003, you can move into your new home by the end of the year!

In addition, beginning June 29, 2003 to August 29, 2003, buyers who reserve and make their corresponding down payments 30 days after reservation will be entitled to an exciting promo: a choice between a Home Entertainment Package and a Home Improvement Package.

The Home Entertainment Package consists of one (1) unit Philips 63.5 cm (25") flat screen TV and (1) one unit Pioneer 5-disc DVD/VCD home theater system while the Home Improvement Package consists of a voucher worth P50,000 for interior design or landscaping services of choice.

Ferndale Homes presents a Mediterranean experience for the progressive Filipino family. Offering the first cluster homes concept in the country, the master-planned community of three-bedroom houses promotes close neighborhood ties with its non-existent fences, excellent facilities and village management. Located along Sampaguita Ave. in Quezon City, Ferndale Homes has ready access to schools, hospitals and churches within the area.

Join us for our Sweet Home Anticipation event on July 13, 2003 at the Ferndale Home Village Clubhouse from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm. For more details, call us at (632) 848-5000 or visit http:// www.ayalaland.com.ph or email us at ayala-sales@ayalaland.com.ph.

Per DTI-NCR Permit # 1787, Series of 2003

When it rains, it pours.

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ETHAN ALLEN HOME INTERIORS

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SATURDAY Super

Contributing Editor **Pam Pastor**
Creative Director **Tim Yap**

MTV hits and misses

Text and photos
by Maui V. Reyes

"JOLINA Cruz?! *Eh wala namang* Jolina Cruz *a!*" Rivermaya's Japs Sergio cried as the lights went on for yet another god-knows-how-long gap.

The rest of the band turned to him and started laughed. "*Gago,* Geneva Cruz, *hindi* Jolina! *Lasing ka na, pare!*" Guitarist Mike Elgar laughed.

Such banter, snickers, and about a million censored heckles from the bleachers where the rock bands stayed was probably the highlight of the event. Too bad if you were seated below. "MTV Pilipinas 2003," held at the NBC Tent last Wednesday and claimed to be the most star-studded event of the year, was a dud.

Executives of record companies who came to support their artists left, not so discreetly, when the artists won or when the categories in where they were nominated were done. The mosh pit got thinner and thinner after each segment. Dead air was thick, and Ogie Alcasid and Rufa Mae Quinto didn't exert effort to entertain the crowd.

As Lee Nadela of Slapshock said, "*Isa siyang malaking perya na labu-labo. Sayang oras. Kulang na lang, nagpa*-contest *sila para isa na talaga siyang* crappy noontime show!" Super!

Here's what 2bU! thinks of this year's MTV Pilipinas 2003 Awards.

HITS

The New Nominees. Finally, bands like Sugarfree, Kamikazee and Imago were recognized. It's about time we looked to bands other than Parokya ni Edgar, Rivermaya, Southborder, and True Faith. Hopefully by next year, we'll see more of these new bands and less of, well, the others.

The concept. When we heard a month or two before the show that the theme was going to be Pinoy Pop Culture, we couldn't wait to see the set and how MTV would carry it out.

Kamikazee. It was their MTV Awards debut and already they won Video of the Year. Although it doesn't make up for MTV's tech overlooking what was an itsy bitsy teeny weeny slight problem (they failed to turn on lead vocalist Jay Contrera's microphone, hence his screaming was in vain during their entire performance), the band got the props they deserve. And of course, director Avid Liongoren rocks.

Wow, we can sit! It was the first awards show where the nominees actually had seats, and didn't have to loiter backstage in dressing rooms or fight over plastic chairs. Now they could actually watch the show from up front.

Free beer.

MISSES

The spiels. Probably half of the gay community in Malate were frolicking onstage. Drag queens, transvestites . . . this is pop culture? Most of the spiels were right before the announcement of the winners, which I guess was supposed to build some suspense. But it only annoyed the hell out of the nominees and the audience. They were so pissed, that by the end of the show, they were screaming at anyone who walked onstage.

Dead air. We would think MTV would have gotten this down right by now. Apparently not. After an award is given out or a performance was done, the lights would go on, the stage would be empty, and we'd all just sit around and stare at each for about 10 minutes. Is this the part where the commercials are inserted?

"Oh I knew he/she would win." It doesn't take an Einstein and a half to know that certain celebs would win. C'mon, it's MTV. Their names were written on those awards even before the other nominees were drawn up.

What the--? There were people playing basketball onstage and girls in short shorts flirting and texting with the "players" while bands Sugarfree and True Faith played. Okay. What was the point?

Where do I register? It was by invitation, supposedly. And they even advertised auditions for those who want to be part of the mosh pit. But when we got there, it was free for all. A press person requested for an ID and was told that the bouncers didn't really check IDs backstage, but that if any trouble arose, he should just "go back outside and talk to the organizers." Sweet.

Unecessary Awards. A wacky one, like "Best Jump," is cute. But "Best Moment"? That's overkill.

Showbands. We kind of understand that it's a music channel, and we can't deny that showbands are a staple in Pinoy pop culture. But when you cover Nina's song and Nina was there a few hours ago . . . dude, that's just lame.

EAV Velasquez and presentor Imee Marcos

Did you know that TJ Manotoc was once 2bU! correspondent, fashion critic, resident gay dictionary Shahani Gania's boss?

THE SOAP STARS. Guess who's who.

SLAPSHO Jamir and his band did a hi and goodbye

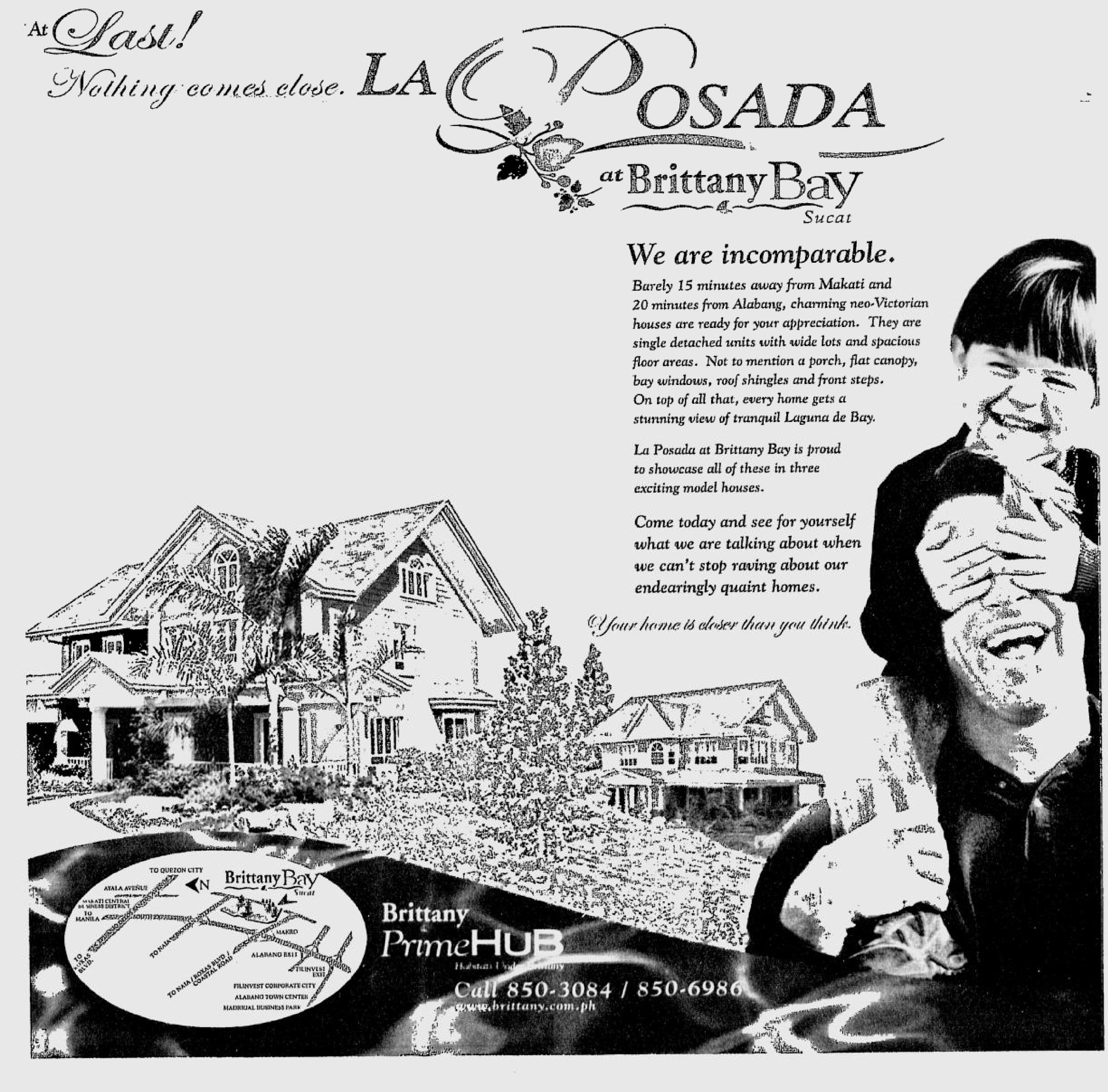
WHITE lady Nina bags Favorite New Artist

IZZA ko with Rivermaya Rico Blanc

BLEACHER babes Radha, Rufa Mae, and Geneva

"KRIS" and **"Joshua"** backstage

OH NO, is it the '80s?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Nothing comes close. LA POSADA
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We are incomparable.

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La Posada at Brittany Bay is proud to showcase all of these in three exciting model houses.

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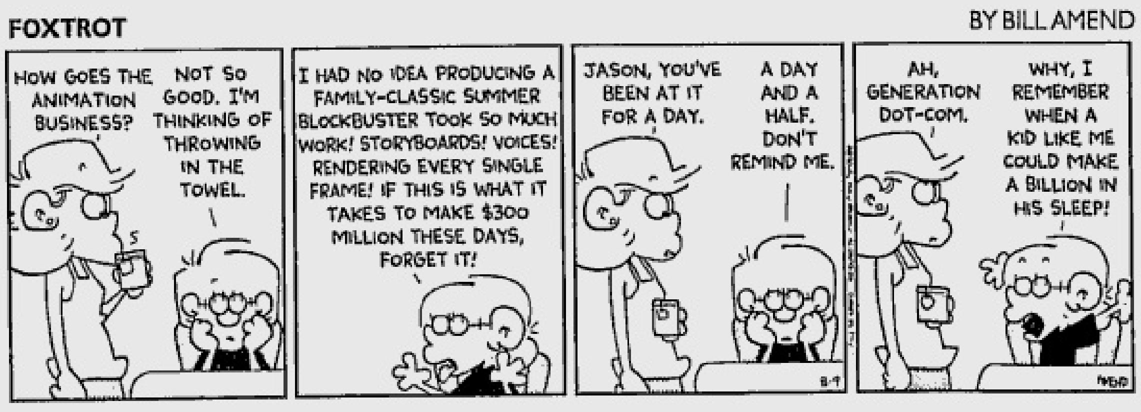
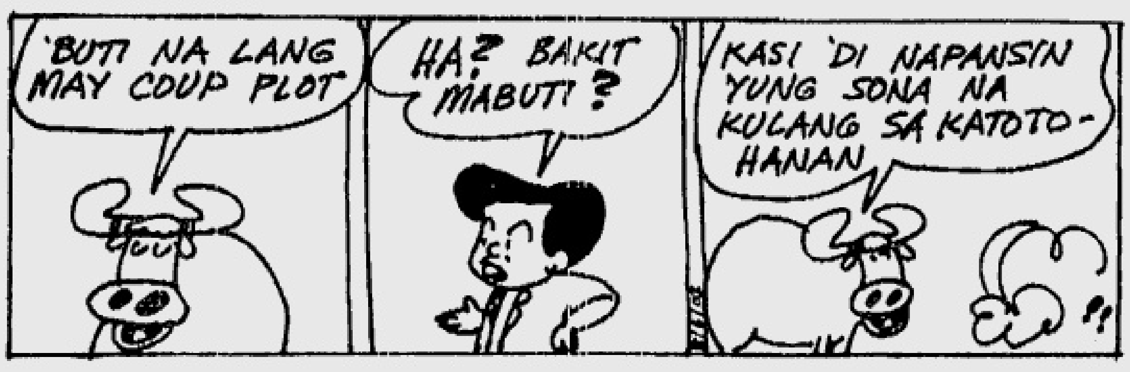
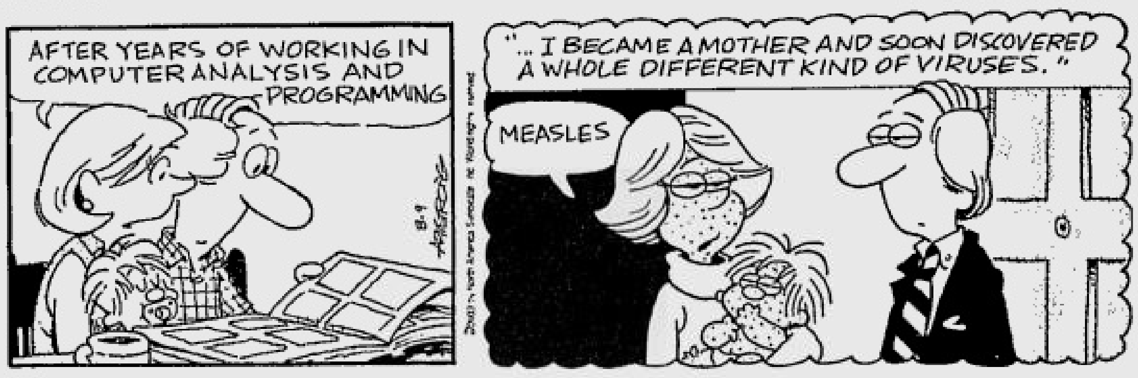
FOXTROT
BY BILL AMEND


HOW GOES THE ANIMATION BUSINESS?
NOT SO GOOD. I'M THINKING OF THROWING IN THE TOWEL.
I HAD NO IDEA PRODUCING A FAMILY-CLASSIC SUMMER BLOCKBUSTER TOOK SO MUCH WORK! STORYBOARDS! VOICES! RENDERING EVERY SINGLE FRAME! IF THIS IS WHAT IT TAKES TO MAKE $300 MILLION THESE DAYS, FORGET IT!
JASON, YOU'VE BEEN AT IT FOR A DAY.
A DAY AND A HALF. DON'T REMIND ME.
AH, GENERATION DOT-COM.
WHY, I REMEMBER WHEN A KID LIKE ME COULD MAKE A BILLION IN HIS SLEEP!
8-9

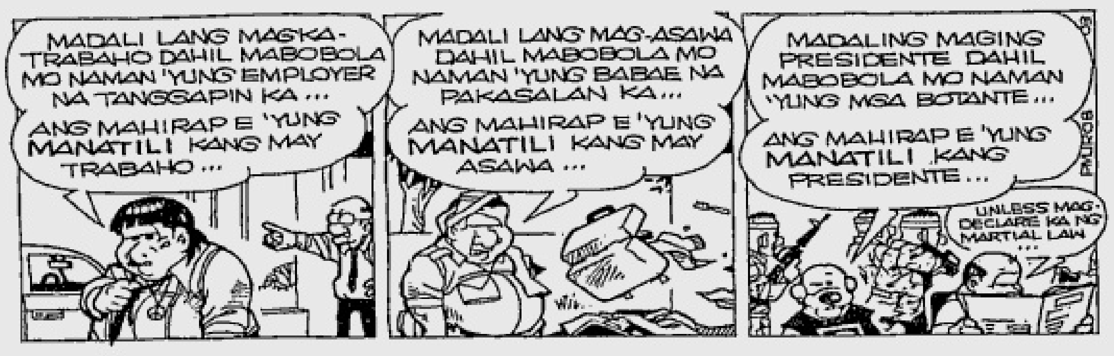
A. LIPIN
BY JESS ABRERA


'BUTI NA LANG MAY COUP PLOT
HA? BAKIT MABUTI?
KASI 'DI NAPANSIN YUNG SONA NA KULANG SA KATOTOHANAN
!!

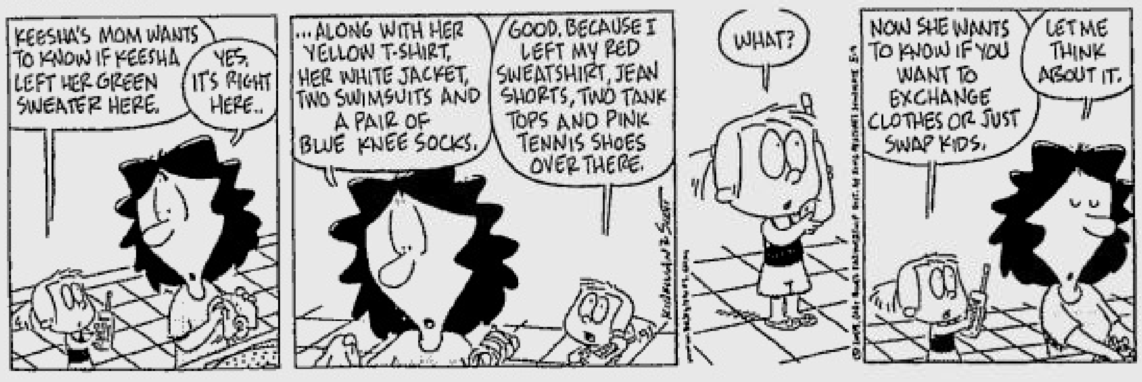
MARVIN
BY TOM ARMSTRONG


AFTER YEARS OF WORKING IN COMPUTER ANALYSIS AND PROGRAMMING
"... I BECAME A MOTHER AND SOON DISCOVERED A WHOLE DIFFERENT KIND OF VIRUSES."
MEASLES
8-9

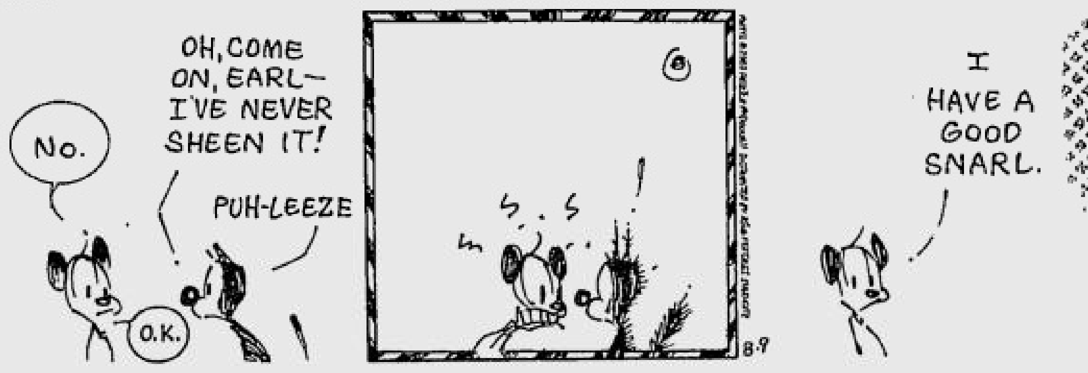
PUGAD BABOY
BY P.M. JUNIOR


MADALI LANG MAGKA-TRABAHO DAHIL MABOBOLA MO NAMAN 'YUNG EMPLOYER NA TANGGAPIN KA ...
ANG MAHIRAP E 'YUNG MANATILI KANG MAY TRABAHO ...
MADALI LANG MAG-ASAWA DAHIL MABOBOLA MO NAMAN 'YUNG BABAE NA PAKASALAN KA ...
ANG MAHIRAP E 'YUNG MANATILI KANG MAY ASAWA ...
MADALING MAGING PRESIDENTE DAHIL MABOBOLA MO NAMAN 'YUNG MGA BOTANTE ...
ANG MAHIRAP E 'YUNG MANATILI KANG PRESIDENTE ...
UNLESS MAG-DECLARE KA NG MARTIAL LAW ...
PMJR08

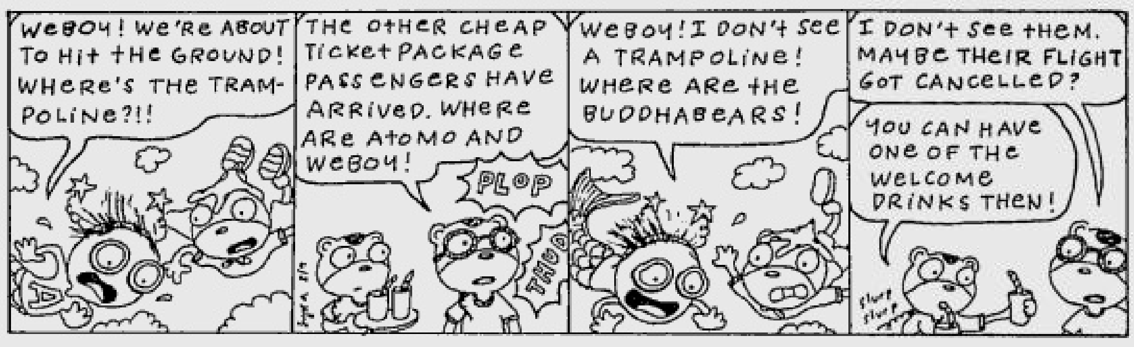
BABY BLUES
BY JERRY SCOTT


KEESHA'S MOM WANTS TO KNOW IF KEESHA LEFT HER GREEN SWEATER HERE.
YES, IT'S RIGHT HERE..
...ALONG WITH HER YELLOW T-SHIRT, HER WHITE JACKET, TWO SWIMSUITS AND A PAIR OF BLUE KNEE SOCKS.
GOOD. BECAUSE I LEFT MY RED SWEATSHIRT, JEAN SHORTS, TWO TANK TOPS AND PINK TENNIS SHOES OVER THERE.
WHAT?
NOW SHE WANTS TO KNOW IF YOU WANT TO EXCHANGE CLOTHES OR JUST SWAP KIDS.
LET ME THINK ABOUT IT.

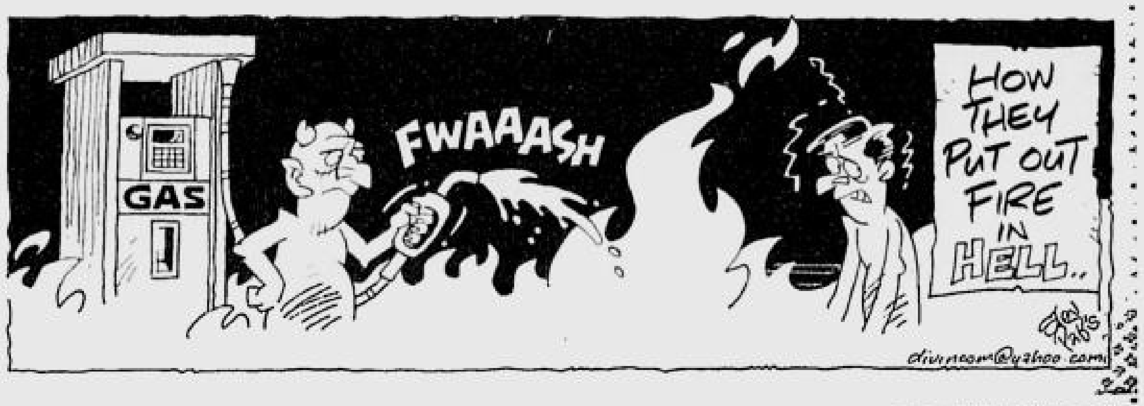
MUTTS
BY PATRICK McDONNELL


No.
OH, COME ON, EARL— I'VE NEVER SHEEN IT!
PUH-LEEZE
O.K.
I HAVE A GOOD SNARL.
8-9

ATOMO AND WEBOY
BY LYRA GARCELLANO


WEBOY! WE'RE ABOUT TO HIT THE GROUND! WHERE'S THE TRAMPOLINE?!!
THE OTHER CHEAP TICKET PACKAGE PASSENGERS HAVE ARRIVED. WHERE ARE ATOMO AND WEBOY!
PLOP
THUD
WEBOY! I DON'T SEE A TRAMPOLINE! WHERE ARE THE BUDDHABEARS!
I DON'T SEE THEM. MAYBE THEIR FLIGHT GOT CANCELLED?
YOU CAN HAVE ONE OF THE WELCOME DRINKS THEN!
slurp slurp

DIVINE COMEDY
BY STEVEN PABALINAS


GAS
FWAAASH
HOW THEY PUT OUT FIRE IN HELL..
divinecom@yahoo.com

HOROSCOPE
BY FRANCIS DRAKE

YOU BORN TODAY: You have a fine mind. Because of your structured approach to life, others know they can depend on you. Plus you are compassionate and altruistic. Your thoughtfulness means a lot to others. You have excellent persuasive skills, so you know how to get your way. Work hard this year for something that is dear to you.
Birthdate of: Whitney Houston, singer/actress; Melanie Griffith, actress; Sam Elliott, actor.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): This is a wonderful day to be creative and explore opportunities in the entertainment world or show business. Similarly, playful activities with children are enjoyable.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): Your focus is on your domestic scene. Think about how you can make your home more attractive. But do not buy anything today or tomorrow morning.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): The pace of your days is accelerating! Appointments and discussions keep you busy. Today is a poor day to shop.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): Is there a better job for you? You have good ideas now about how to earn money. Don't be afraid to explore them, because it's a whole new world for you.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): You've entered a period in your life where you will have to let go of many things and say goodbye to some people. Do this as gracefully as you can.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): You definitely need some peace and quiet. Give yourself time to look back on the past year to see how well you're doing at the art of living. (Your birthday looms ahead.)

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): This is a good day to enjoy group activities or conversations with friends. Talk to people about your plans and dreams for the future. Their feedback might give you helpful suggestions.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): You are definitely in the public eye more than usual now. Today is a lovely day to schmooze and impress people. Use your influence to make something look more attractive, if you can.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): Do something different from your ordinary routine today. Since you are hungry for adventure and learning now, why not at least be a tourist in your own city?

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): You have to learn how to compromise with the values of somebody else today. However, do not sign on the dotted line or make important commitments today or tomorrow morning.

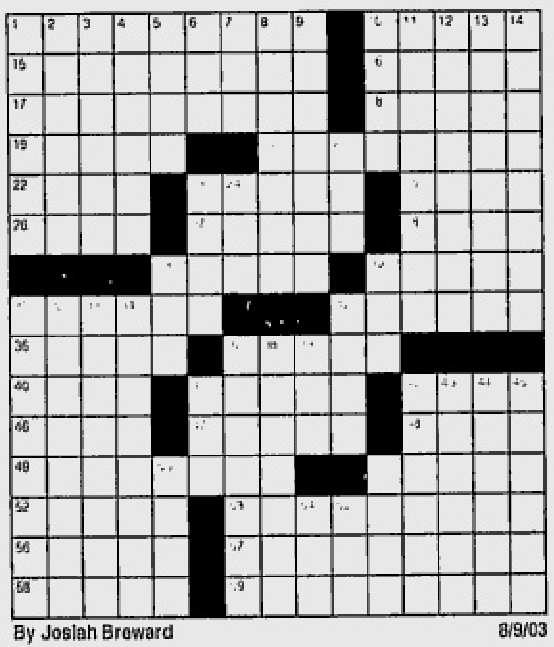
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): Conversations with partners and close friends can be lighthearted, fun-loving and hey nonny nonny. Enjoy good times chatting with others.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): Think about what you can do to improve your health, especially by refraining from something. Whatever you do that is not good for you—try to do it less.

DAILY CROSSWORD

ACROSS
1 Pioneers' wagon
10 Angelic instruments
15 Dictates anew
16 Film-critic Roger
17 Long-tongued mammals
18 Fur merchant John Jacob
19 Minor population centers
20 The Velvet Fog
22 "National Velvet" writer Bagnold
23 New modiller?
25 Cup brims
26 Match parts
27 Family members
28 Amer. Legion members
29 Archer and Bancroft
30 Flood shield
31 Walks heavily
35 Passover dinners
36 Ziegfeld Follies, e.g.
37 Young haddock
40 Has a birthday
41 Oarsman on a punt
42 Ova
46 Second of the Gospels
47 Commerce
48 Brag
49 Well-read elite
51 Bring joy
52 British architect Jones
53 Inequality
56 Verne and Disney characters
57 Glowing gas
58 Utopias
59 Disputed territories

DOWN
1 Packing cases
2 Wife of Paris
3 Airhead



By Josiah Broward
Scranton, PA
8/9/03

4 Corrects text
5 Hot tubs
6 Wee one
7 Chemical ending
8 Pertinent
9 Nods
10 Warmth
11 Pronounced blameless
12 Go get
13 Reminder
14 Emphasizes
21 Mormon church letters
23 Forbids
24 Participate in a 10K
29 Bonzo or Clyde, e.g.
30 Ran in front
31 Streetcar's route
32 Got back
33 Worker's extra $
34 Michigan river
35 Tender
37 Arranging in order
38 One making assertions
39 "The _ Pony"
41 Mom-and-pop school grp.
42 Cream-filled treat
43 Association of farmers
44 Prankster's exclamation
45 Candies
50 Diana or Marion
51 Vocalist Fitzgerald
54 Feathered scarf
55 Whatever

Friday's Puzzle Solved

C	B	S	■	L	I	S	P	S	■	E	L	A	N	D
A	R	A	■	I	S	L	A	M	■	S	E	N	O	R
D	O	W	N	S	L	O	P	E	■	T	A	S	T	E
■	W	H	O	L	E	B	A	L	L	O	F	W	A	X
S	N	O	R	T	■	■	■	T	A	P	■	E	T	E
L	I	R	A	■	B	L	A	S	T	■	O	R	F	I
A	S	S	■	A	R	I	D	■	C	A	R	■	■	■
T	H	E	W	H	O	L	E	S	H	E	B	A	N	G
■	■	■	I	A	N	■	L	E	E	S	■	D	U	O
C	A	N	T	■	C	R	E	W	S	■	D	E	M	O
U	S	E	■	S	H	E	■	■	■	A	I	L	E	D
T	H	E	W	H	O	L	E	S	H	M	E	A	R	■
O	L	D	I	E	■	I	N	T	U	I	T	I	O	N
F	A	L	S	E	■	C	Z	A	R	S	■	D	U	E
F	R	E	E	R	■	S	O	R	T	S	■	E	S	T

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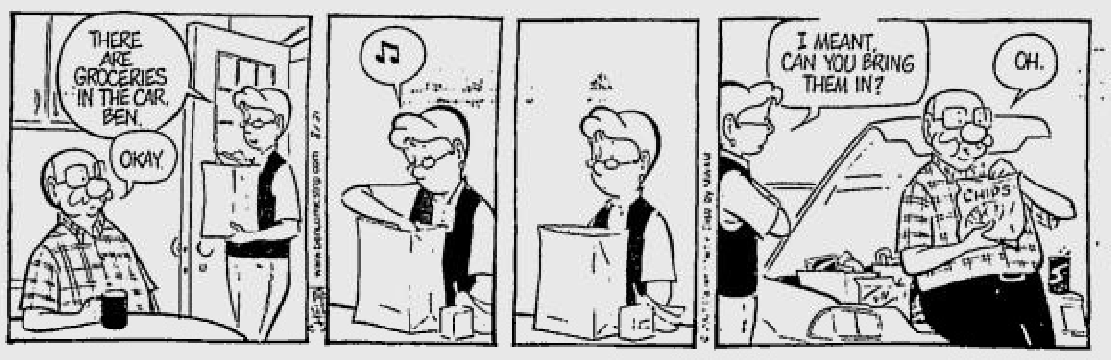
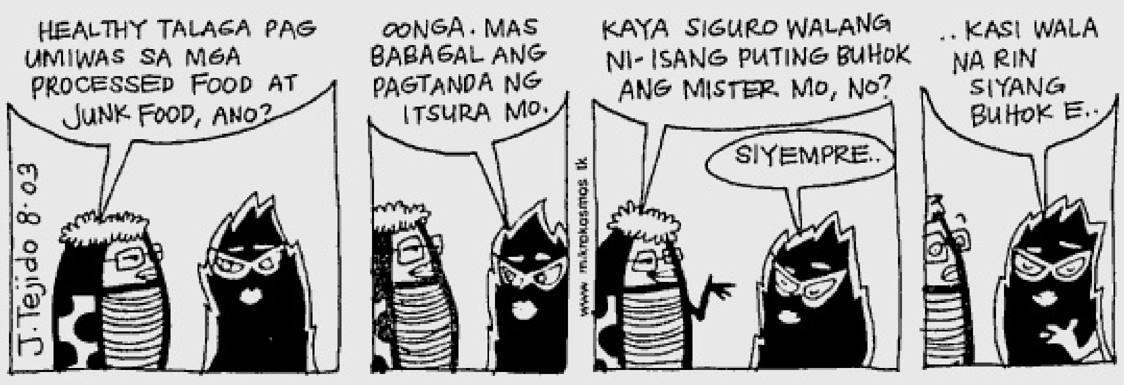
8/8/03

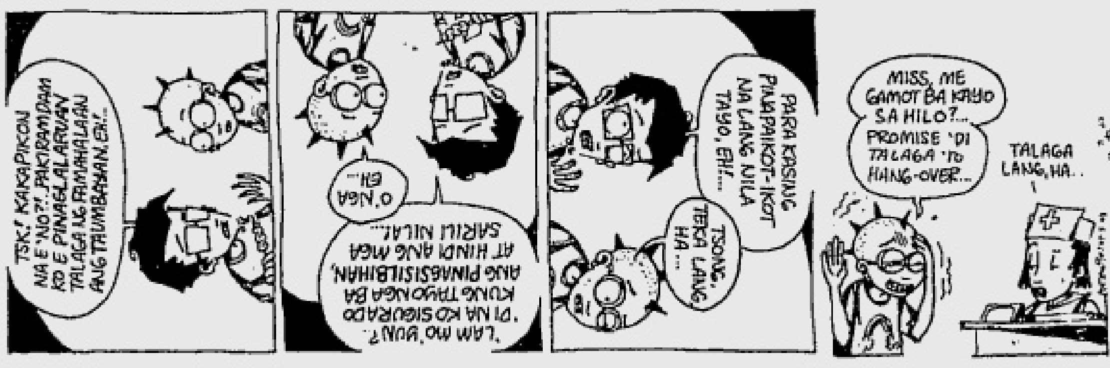
BEN
BY DANIEL SHELTON


THERE ARE GROCERIES IN THE CAR, BEN.
OKAY.
♫
I MEANT, CAN YOU BRING THEM IN?
OH.
CHIPS

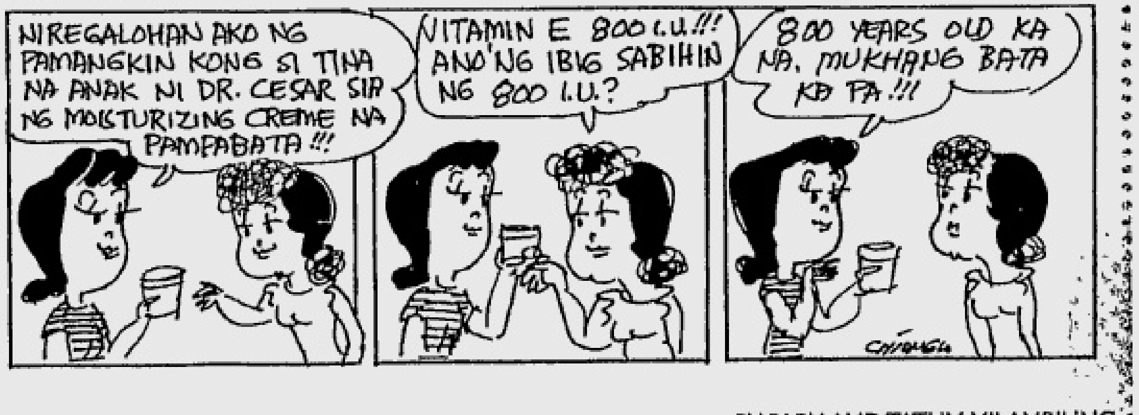
MIKROKOSMOS
BY JOMIKE TEJIDO


HEALTHY TALAGA PAG UMIWAS SA MGA PROCESSED FOOD AT JUNK FOOD, ANO?
OONGA. MAS BABAGAL ANG PAGTANDA NG ITSURA MO.
KAYA SIGURO WALANG NI-ISANG PUTING BUHOK ANG MISTER MO, NO?
SIYEMPRE..
..KASI WALA NA RIN SIYANG BUHOK E..
J. Tejido 8·03
www.mikrokosmos.tk

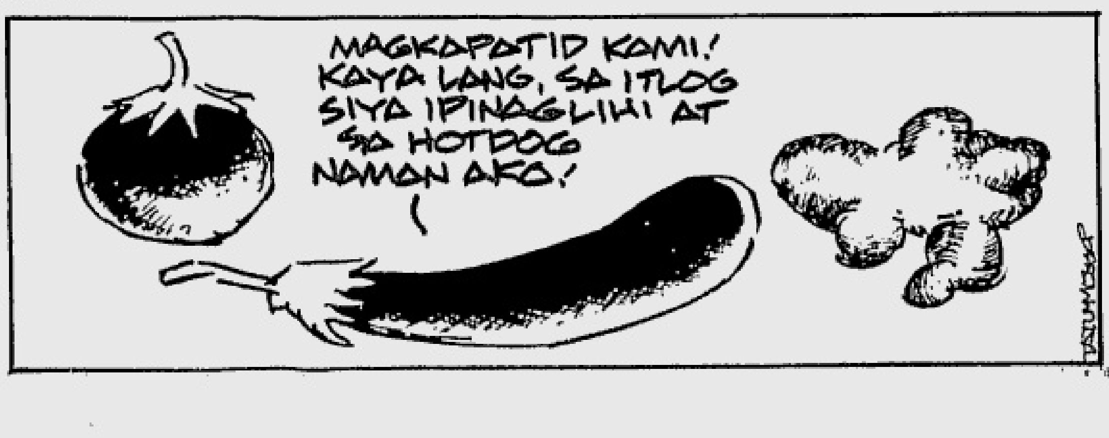
KIKO MACHINE
BY MANIX ABRERA


TSK! KAKAPIKON NA E 'NO?!. PAKIRAMDAM KO E PINAGLALARUAN TALAGA NG PAMAHALAAN ANG TAUMBAYAN, EH!..
LAM MO 'BUN? 'DI NA KO SIGURADO KUNG TAYO NGA BA ANG PINAGSISILBIHAN, AT HINDI ANG MGA SARILI NILA!...
O'NGA EH...
PARA KASING PINAPAIKOT-IKOT NA LANG NILA TAYO, EH!...
TSONG, TEKA LANG HA...
MISS, ME GAMOT BA KAYO SA HILO?... PROMISE 'DI TALAGA 'TO HANG-OVER...
TALAGA LANG, HA..

LOVEKNOTS
BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


NIREGALOHAN AKO NG PAMANGKIN KONG SI TINA NA ANAK NI DR. CESAR SIP NG MOISTURIZING CREME NA PAMPABATA!!!
VITAMIN E 800 I.U.!!! ANO'NG IBIG SABIHIN NG 800 I.U.?
800 YEARS OLD KA NA, MUKHANG BATA KA PA!!!
CHIONGLO

TULDOK
BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING


MAGKAPATID KAMI! KAYA LANG, SA ITLOG SIYA IPINAGLIHI AT SA HOTDOG NAMAN AKO!
TATUM

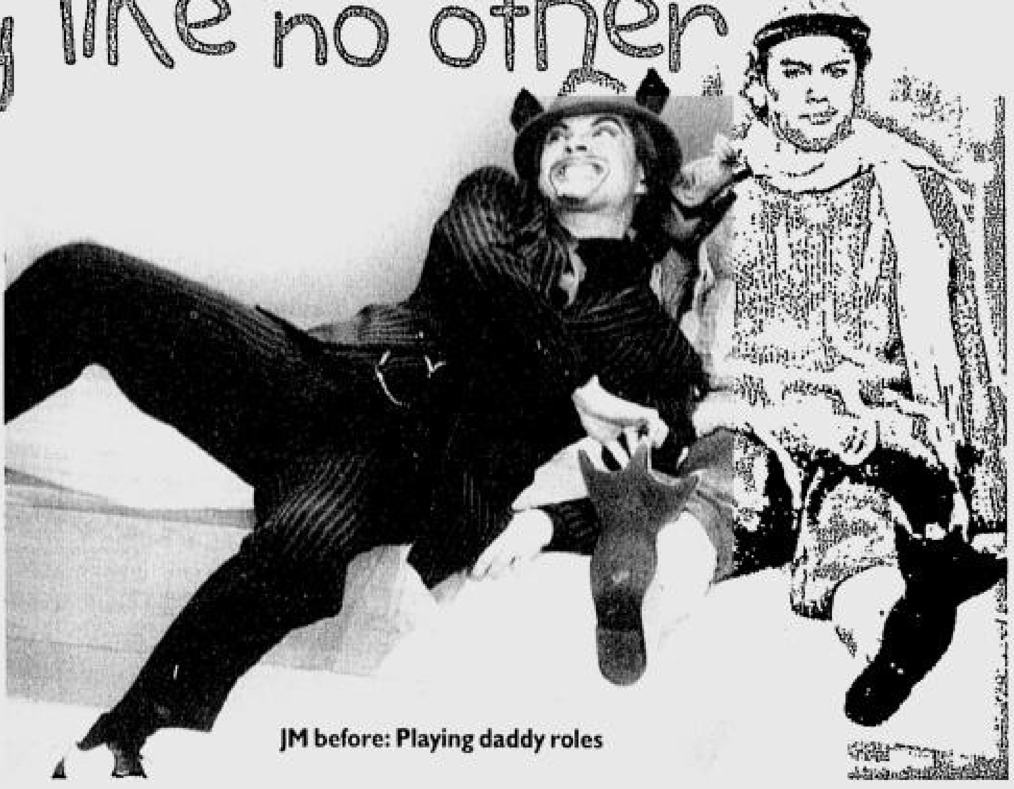
‘Honk’: poultry like no other

Everybody knows the story of the ugly duckling. Why watch this rendition?

By M Jarumayan

THE JADED will say there are only so many ways to skin a cat—maybe dress poultry is more apt. So why should one spend two hours watching Trumpets’ latest musical, “Honk! The Ugly Duckling,” a story that everybody who’s been through kindergertain is already fowl-miliar with?

Don’t watch it for the dialogue that is littered with foul, I mean fowl puns (the habit is contagious) that are initially amusing but eventually get tiresome. The fact that the original British production won as Best Musical in the 2000 Lawrence Olivier Awards should not be much of a factor either. Watch it because the production is indicative of Philippine theater at its contemporary best in terms of casting, direction, choreography and production design.



JM before: Playing daddy roles

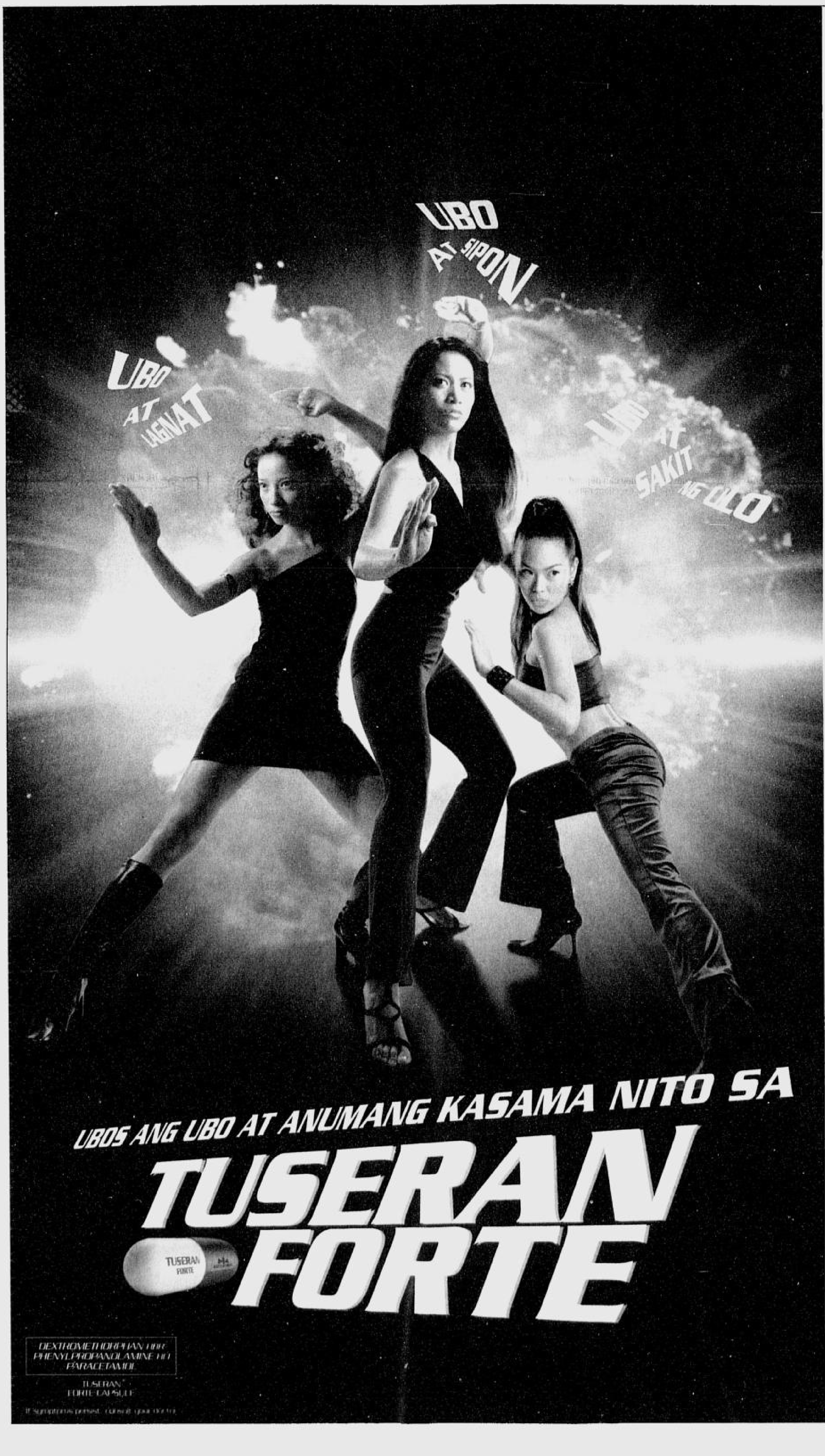
Carlo Orosa plays Ugly (Franco Laurel alternates) who is part of Ida (Carla Martinez, Agot Isidro alternates) and Drake’s (Bonggoy Manahan) brood of five. While the four ducklings are oh-so-cute in yellow shirts, shorts, caps and sneakers, Ugly is . . . well, ugly with clumsy, big-webbed feet and drab gray sweater and shorts. The cute four let out cheerful “quack quacks” while Ugly can only manage this sonorous “honk!” The disparity in looks and demeanor is so apparent that truly, Ugly is a creature that only his mother can love.

And love him she does against so many odds.

The others

Not only is Ugly the family’s laughing-duck; the hen yard’s denizens cannot accept him, either. The hen yard is populated by poultry of different kinds: a turkey allergic to the word “Christmas,” a sexy hen who spews gossip between aerobic exercises, and Her Royal.Highness Grace (va-va-voom portrayal by Sheila Francisco, Nanette Inventor alternates), queen dominatrix. The latter’s claim to fame is not just that she is the largest, most beautiful fowl around, but also because she once had an exotic lover that was a Mandarin duck.

'HONK'/ F4



Beat That Cough

Brought to you by Tuseran Forte Capsule

Cough is one of the most bothersome conditions one can encounter. It brings so much inconvenience to a person. Yet no matter how unwelcome and involuntary it is, a cough is not itself an illness, but rather a protective reflex. Normal coughing is actually important to keep your throat and airways clear of irritants. It is one of the body's natural responses to the presence of "aliens".

What makes us cough?

The most common cause of cough is an irritant invading the air passages such as dust, food particles, smoke, or nasal secretions. Excessive phlegm or secretions due to respiratory tract infections or diseases such as flu, bronchitis, pneumonia, tuberculosis or lung cancer may also trigger a cough.

Generally, the coughing reflex occurs when the membranes lining the respiratory tract emit excessive mucus or phlegm. These secretions help to protect your airways from infections and irritants by trapping and flushing out bacteria and foreign particles. Coughing is your body's way of getting rid of this accumulation.

How to beat that cough

Since cough may be a sign of a disease, its significance rests with its cause. To know how to treat a cough, you must decide what is triggering it. If you think that your cough might have a serious cause, you should seek the help of a health care professional right away.

- Drink lots of fluids. Use water, fruit juices, hot soup, etc. These help moisten the air passages and liquefy mucus. They will also soothe a dry, sore throat.
- Stop smoking and stay away from places where second-hand smoke is present.
- If a cough won't stop, try taking a hot shower or inhaling steam from a bowl of hot water. These will liquefy your mucus and decrease the irritation in your lungs.
- Try sucking on lozenges, chewing gum, or keeping a piece of hard candy in your mouth.

The power of Tuseran Forte Capsule

Of the many cough remedies out in the market, Tuseran Forte Capsule stands out. It is formulated to effectively relieve cough together with its most common accompanying symptoms: cold, fever and headache. The multi-symptom relief brought about by Tuseran Forte Capsule makes it one of the most popular over-the-counter cough remedies. It was recently awarded as Top Cough & Cold Capsule Medicine Brand at the 2003 National Consumers Quality Awards, a further testament to its leverage as the authority in cough prevention.

When to see a Physician

- If your cough lasts for more than a week
- If you have a fever of over 38°C
- If you have wheezing, rapid breathing, shortness of breath, or other respiratory difficulty
- If you have chest pain either when you cough or when you are not coughing
- If you cough out phlegm that is green, brown, yellow or rust colored, or if you cough out blood
- If the cough is severe or comes in episodes that you can't control
- If you have night sweats

Prevention Is Best

The best way to beat cough is to prevent it. Cough is an indicator of an unhealthy lifestyle. Therefore, if you don't want to be bothered by cough and its accompanying symptoms, get back to basics. Eat right. Sleep well. Exercise. Reduce stress. Quit smoking. Stay positive.

Jm Rodriguez @ A Taste of L.A.

TINA TASTES

by Tina Pamintuan

TO what extent would you go for . . . good food? At the heart of Quezon City, this place is a reminder of the independent restaurants that the area was once known for. I went all the way from Makati just to get their number, since the place is not listed. An old house built before I was born, a wood burning oven existent before my parents' time, and old recipes and favorites that would make our grandparents happy, are just a fraction of what you can expect from a Taste of L.A.

Jm and I ordered from a menu fit for kings. There are 91 dishes, not including desserts and drinks. One afternoon and two people were surely not enough to sample their best hits. But we did a pretty good job, almost entirely consuming six dishes.

OKAY *na ALRAYT!*

To start, crispy strips of salmon belly fries with a citron pepper dip, that tempted me to eat rice (I don't like rice). Then "butterflied" shrimps in a crumb crust with a sinful anchovy cheese dip that I ingested like soup. Then (a must-must-have!) spinach pizza with oozing melted soft cheese and big pieces of smoked bacon on a medium thin crust, necessary for the heavy toppings we're definitely not complaining about!

MAKE your belly happy. Salmon belly fries

But Jm was never really one to complain. At least not now, with two regular television shows, numerous running commercials, and as a Studio 23 VJ. He is handsome and cute (a rare combination), hilariously funny, smart and more talented as an individual than some boy bands and groups put together. What else is he blessed with? He loves to eat and he's thin! But thin, he hasn't always been. This "geek gone wild" lost 60 pounds in college. Being in Repertory Philippines for five years, where he trained, performed and taught, he just had to shed some weight, if only to land better roles. Which he did. His first casting for the lead in a Pizza Hut commercial with Mikee Cojuangco led to more work, including the broadway musical "Rent," which he successfully performed just as he was leaving Repertory.

As a former "geek gone wild" myself, I asked Jm how attention and fame, and being thin, changed the way he perceived people and life. His answer: they haven't. Also, fat or thin, he has always been able to laugh at himself. In real life, he enjoys playing the the court jester up till now.

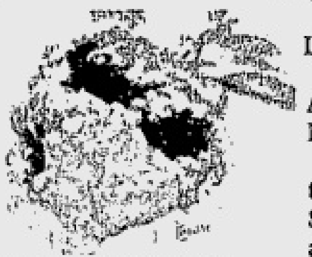
We discussed whether we should have the cheesecake that people said we had to try, and decided to have fresh fruit shakes instead. Which may seemed like the healthier option—but not really, with all that sugar.

Jm had to leave for taping at ABS-CBN, just five minutes away from the restaurant. I stayed and chatted with the owners, lovely young couple Junet and Elaine Galvez, who have run this baby of theirs for the past 12 years. Elaine does the cooking and admits that she gets ideas from all over. But she is very keen on making sure that the original recipes are not altered.

Simple and classic dishes speak loudly of authenticity and tradition. Osso bucco Milanese—Italian braised veal shank with lemon parsley *gremolata* (imagine *bulalo* cooked slowly with rich tomatoes and herbs, and the bone marrow roasted). *Lechon pugon* from the wood-fired oven, with pickled papaya and plum sauce. Twice-cooked *lechon*, fried the next day to retain the crispiness of the skin and served with a chilli-vinegar dip. Salmon head *sinigang* in a Japanese *miso* broth and mustard greens. Mondavi lamb salad—mixed greens and thyme-scented lamb with a parmesan wine vinaigrette. On top of these, a selection of oysters, fondues, pizza, pasta, barbecue dishes, soups, salads, more entrees and appetizers.

The chef, writer and epicure in me tried to classify the cuisine. I couldn't, except for an awkward attempt to describe the menu as being like a CD greatest-hits compilation, Vols. I to X. And the top three hits for me: 3) "sourdough" *pan de sal*, 2) frozen margarita, and 1) prawns thermidor. I just had to bring home some *pan de sal* for my mom.

I have 85 more dishes to try. This place is certainly not for the indecisive. But if you are, go anyway.



MARCONITOS. Beef slices stuffed with bacon, sausage, chorizo, egg and cheese

What: A Taste of L.A.

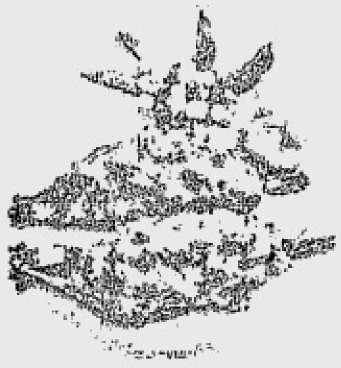
Where: 171 Roces Ave. near Tomas Morato

When: 11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m., Monday to Saturday; 11:30 a.m. to 12 midnight, Sunday

How Much: P400/head

Contact: 374-0745 and 374-2461

(For questions, comments, and suggestions: tina_tastes@yahoo.com)



NO. I HIT. Prawns thermidor

60 POUNDS off: Papa no more

'Honk': poultry like . . .

From page F3

Only Tom Cat, played so devilishly by Noel Rayos (Tonipet Gaba alternates), is interested in Ugly, and this is because he wants to make a meal out of him. He lures Ugly into his "Snack Shack" (a cleverly made set that is one big chopping board with a butcher knife and salt-and-pepper shakers on the side). But Ugly escapes, gets lost and embarks on a journey where he meets other creatures who help him accept his uniqueness, understand the meaning of inner beauty, and trust in the power of a mother's love.

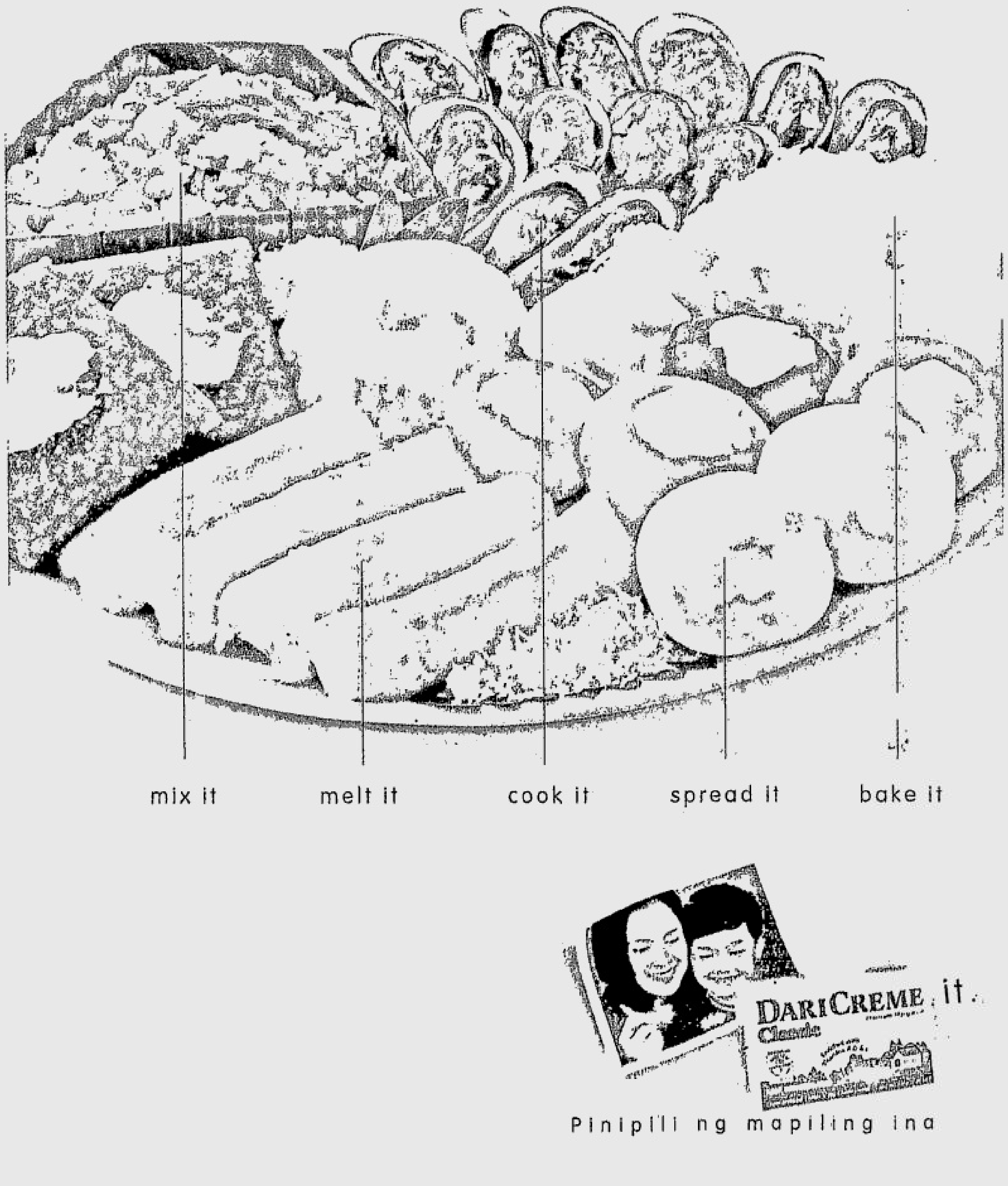
Among the "others" are: a gaggle of geese dressed like RAF pilots who volunteer to undertake the mission of looking for Ugly's mom, the "odd-couple" of domesticated hen Lowbutt (Francisco again) and Queenie the cat, and a groovy bullfrog who sings and dances kinda like Elvis Presley. Choreography is simple yet creative, especially in the scene where the geese take off and go into their V-formation flight. The amorous dance by Tom Cat and Queenie is funny cum erotic with Lowbutt trying to get in on the act.

All the action happens on a candy-colored stage, with either pastel-colored hen-houses, grass patches or eggs as backdrop. Among my favorite scenes is when Ugly takes his first dive into the lake and meets up with fish of brilliant blue color. Another is when groovy bullfrog sings and dances with a dozen or so bright green tadpoles so cute, you forget that the green circles in their costumes are supposed to be warts and not chocolate Nips.

The only awkward presentation in this production is that of the swans. In white trench coat and caps, the swans looked too much like "the twins" in "Matrix Reloaded."

"Honk," as expected from any fairy-tale, leaves audiences with the assurance of a happy ending: Ugly turns into a beautiful swan and wins the love of pretty swan Penny.

But what of one plot item that has apparently never been questioned: How the heck did a swan's egg end up in a duck nest?



Dari Creme Tuna Bringhe

INGREDIENTS:

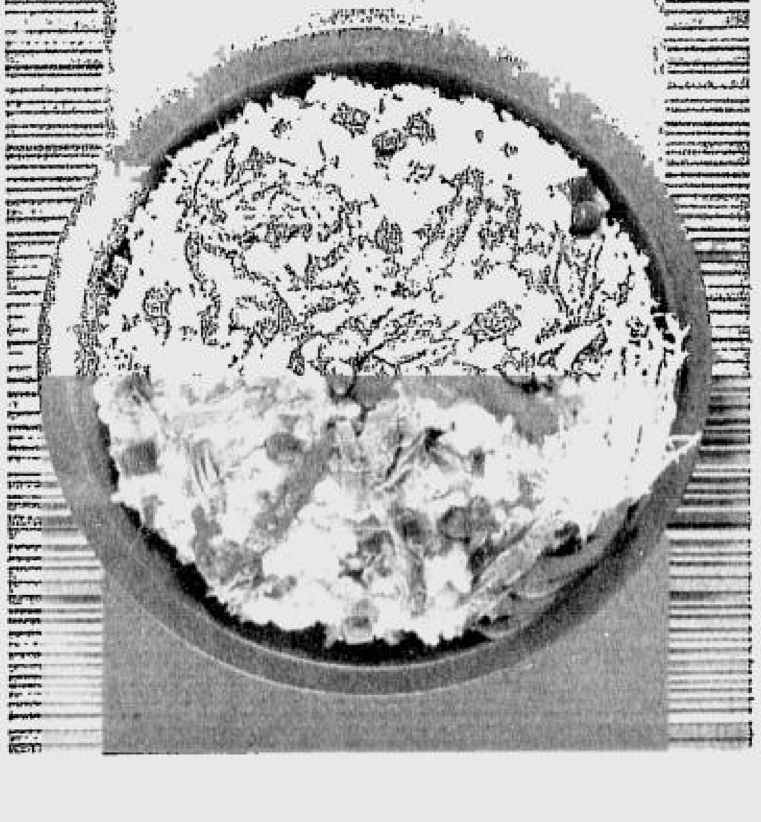
2 cans Hot and spicy tuna
1 cup Malagkit rice
1 cup Kakang gata (coconut milk)
1/4 cup DARI CREME CLASSIC
Salt and pepper

GARNISHINGS:

Red bell pepper (sliced)
Green peas

PROCEDURE:

Mix malagkit rice and Dari Creme Classic. Cook until rice is tender. Add tuna, bell pepper and green peas. Mix well. Add kakang gata. Season with salt and pepper. Cover. Cook for 15 minutes.



SATURDAY Super

Get, get ... awww!

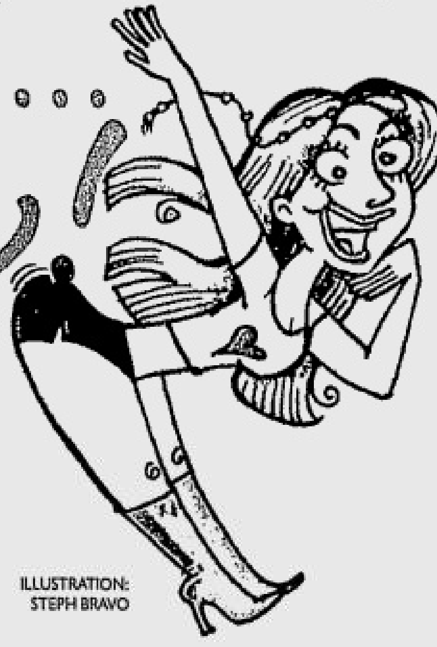


ILLUSTRATION: STEPH BRAVO

Does the future of the industry lie in the Sex Bombs' hands ... er, hips?

THE MOST important person in my life died three years ago. Her name was Ustang Oculares; she was my *yaya*. More than being paid help, she was my source of unconditional love, my constant ear, my second mom.

SWAK!

by Lex

In her deathbed, with barely enough energy to open her eyes, she managed to respond to my teasing: "Ustang, *sino ang* idol *mo? Si* Nora *o si* Vilma? *Si* Vilma *ata, e.*" Being a die-hard lifetime Noranian, she resolutely opened her eyes and whispered, "Nora."

That time made me realize the undeniable power the Pinoy celebrity has.

Nora will never know the profound effect she had on my *yaya*. But thanks to having grown up mentored by a *fan* whose life was so intertwined with her idol, I developed an unlikely interest in show biz. It became very clear to me that, in the Philippines, show biz is the greatest medium for change.

While much could be said about how Nora conducted her personal life, I think her brilliance in acting and singing is beyond question. With a career that has survived decades, it could also be said that her talent is superb, even world-class.

When I look to the entertainment world today for someone worthy of bearing such a torch of excellence, I am hard-pressed, to put it mildly. The hottest craze now is "Meteor Garden," which is essentially just another foreign drama series. After the whole "Marimar," Thalia and Fernando Carillo craze, these four androgynous Taiwanese have become the uncontested *telenovela* flavors-of-the-moment. But this, too, shall pass.

At the same time, the Sex Bomb dancers have managed to weasel their way into the *masa* heart. Kids everywhere are doing the Spaghetti Dance! They can't sing, they don't have much dancing prowess, when you get right down to it, other than outlandish hip work. Their costumes are straight out of some sexy starlet's closet. All they've got going for them, as far as I can see, is their signature shriek, "Awwww!" Does the future of the industry lie in the hands of these women?

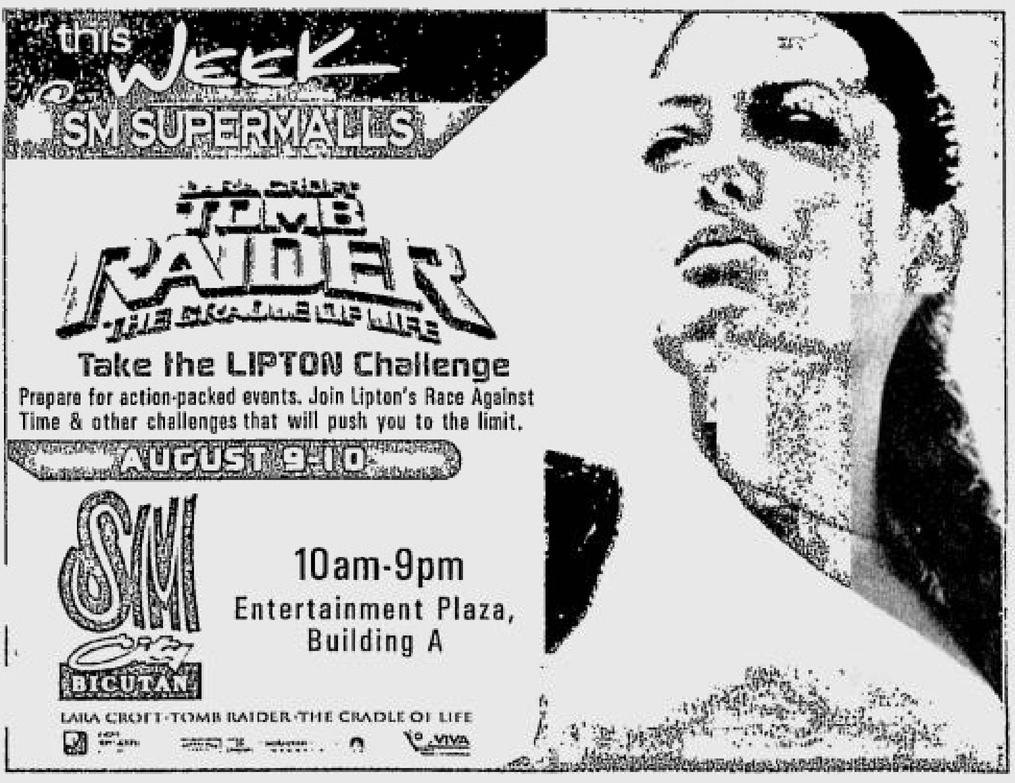
We are a nation with soul. Proof of this is found in any city in the world where a Pinoy wows audiences. Why is this soul not evident in our current preferences?

Show biz is a microcosm of our world. People stick to age-old formulas because they are afraid of change. When someone finds a winning mix, everyone jumps on the bandwagon. Plus, artists nowadays are so bent on being "the next" (Madonna, Mariah, Britney, take your pick) whatever, that they forget to be original.

If it is true that hardships and sufferings are the catalysts for creating great art then we should be in the middle of an artistic renaissance. I am still waiting for the next Nora, whom parents can point to and say, *"Anak, tingnan mo siya, mahirap lang siya dati, pero kung may sipag at tiyaga ka pwede ka rin umasenso katulad niya."*

Somewhere out there is a young talent worthy of the blind hero-worship of the die-hard Pinoy fan. I'd hate to look back on this era when my *yaya* and I meet again, only to tell her that the only idols that my generation produced ended every dance with a hip-thrust and "Get, get, aawwwwww...!"

(For comments e-mail: swak_by_lex@yahoo.com)



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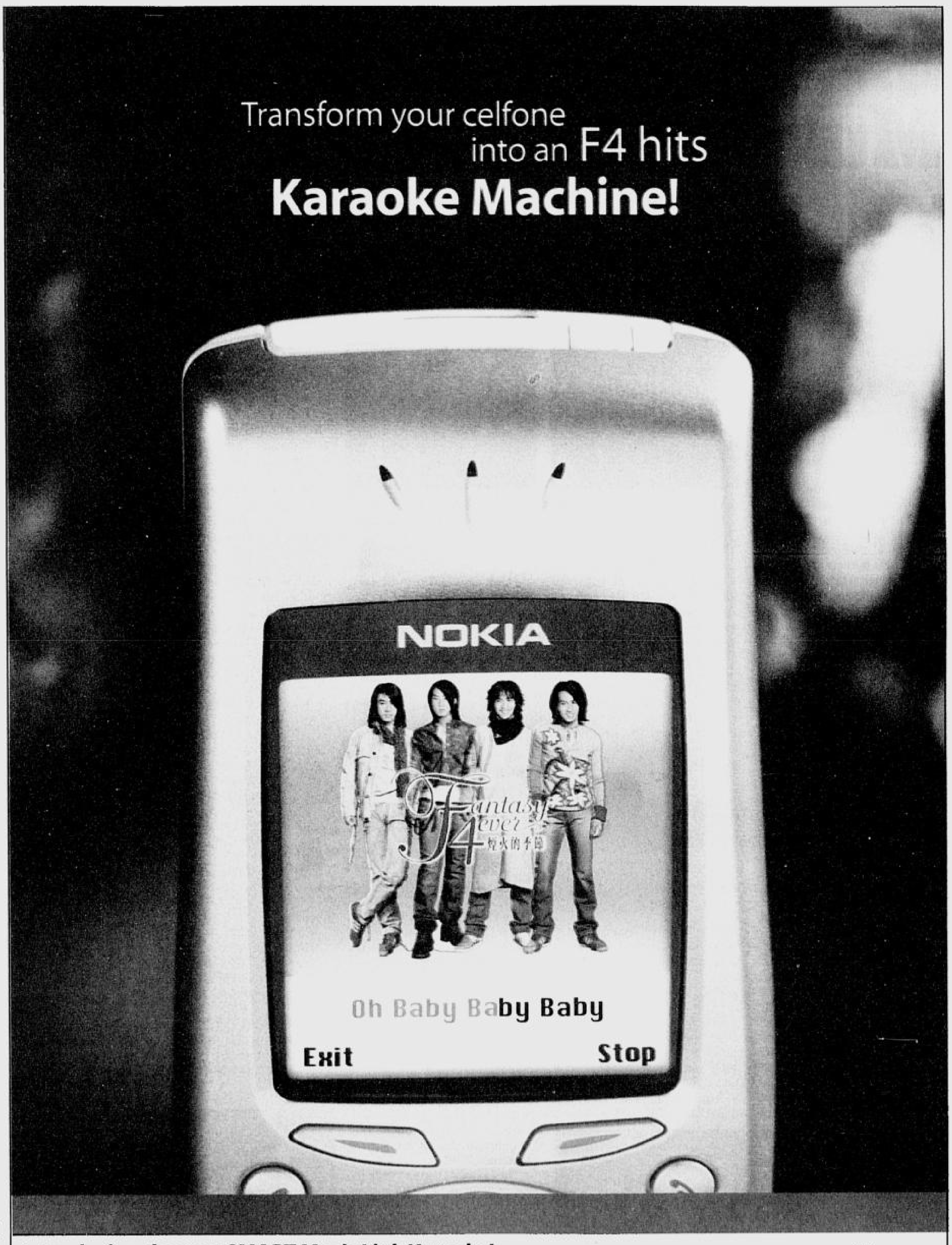

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It's Not Bad, I Just Don't Get It

"Moulin Rouge." Apart from Disney flicks like "The Lion King," I have never been able to wrap my brain around song-and-dance movies. Especially song-and-dance movies that take themselves way too seriously and tunnel desperately for an Oscar nod. Should I be on Xanax to derive any pleasure from this film? Is the fantastic production design distracting me from the absence of any discernible plot?

RENEE ZELLWEGER HUGH GRANT COLIN FIRTH
BRIDGET JONES

Movie Role That Criminally Apes Courtney Cox Arquette's Fat Monica and Mike Myers' Fat Bastard

Renee Zellwegger's Bridget Jones. She said she had you at "Hello," now she wants you to pass the damn chocolate fondue! Renee porked up for the role of a lifetime and bagged a blockbuster. In the relatively uncompetitive UK movie market, that is.

BRENDAN FRASER
THE MUMMY RETURNS

A Sequel That Was Supposed To Suck But Somehow Managed Not To

"The Mummy Returns." Brendan Fraser doesn't really pop up when you hear the phrase "box-office hit," but with this part two of "The Mummy," you can at last forgive him for "Blast from The Past." Packed with more frantic obligatory chase scenes and snarky dialogue, "The Mummy Returns" turned out to be a bigger hit than its predecessor, spawning its very own spin-off, "The Scorpion King."

Murder on Cable TV

...or blood at the rental counter

Age against the machine

Gino de la Paz

LUCKILY, I escaped being part of the generation that grew up on shlocky '80s films, most of which involved the irritating Molly Ringwald and everyone else in "The Breakfast Club." Instead, I came of age in the late '90s, during which the teen movie craze involved the irritating Jennifer Love Hewitt and everyone else in "Can't Hardly Wait."

This, however, did not make me immune to my generation's take on crap.

Since I practically grew up on Dawson-friendly soundtracks and honed my pop culture acumen through sassy film dialogue, I have seen it fit to check on how movies have been after "10 Things I Hate About You." Before you turn on the tube or rush out to rent a movie, weave through what I've got here and avoid unnecessary bloodshed at the rental counter, or crying murder while watching HBO.

Movie That's Begging For Subtitles

"The One." Jet Li's attempt at A-list Hollywood status gets clocked straight where it hurts before it even gets a shot at over-produced fight fluff. Jacky Chan Lite, as I like to call Li, succeeds only in stunning us with his take on the English language. There is nothing else to focus on. Memo to Jet: Hire a speech coach.

Up And Coming Actress Who Never Up And Came

"Tara Reid." After her bedonka-donkas made their stellar debut in "Body Shots," is it any wonder that no one takes her thespian prowess seriously? JC Chasez's semi-clout doesn't help her either. She hasn't had a decent hit since the "American Pie" franchise. Her porn career countdown starts now.

Movie For People Who, With A Straight Face, Can Say They Love Oprah

"America's Sweethearts." Never saw this movie and I probably never will. Why? Because I think Oprah sucks ass and the words "romantic" and "comedy" should never be used together.

The Hugest Surprise Hit After Spy Kids

"Scooby Doo." The world at large thought this movie should've been called "Scooby Don't" but, astonishingly, Scooby did and kept "The Bourne Identity" from claiming gold. Don't cry, Matt Damon. We all know it's a fluke, but brace yourself for the inevitable sequel.

Movie That Automatically Excludes Anyone With A Y-chromosome

"The Princess Diaries." Yeah, it's extremely funny to watch an ugly chick trip over stuff, but the Disney marketing radar bleeped out a significant part of the audience with this movie's girl-power kind-of message. I guess the film's intentions were noble. Yeah, and Hitler was a people person.

Lamest Dialogue In A Movie You've Probably Seen On HBO

"I don't like the sound of that sound."—Heather Graham as Judy Robinson in "Lost in Space."

Best Known Curse For Celebrities Who Try To Cross Over From Comedy TV To The Big Screen

"Saturday Night Live" effect. Tell me, has anyone from the cast of SNL (or "Friends," for that matter) ever made you storm the theaters? Why is that? Is it because it's unmistakably easier to take in a five-minute sketch than a full-length feature? Or is it because you can actually shut the TV off during the unfunny parts?

Best Teen Movie That Has Kirsten Dunst In It But, Mercifully, Not Freddie Prinze Jr.

"Bring It On." Transcending slight material and a cast of nobodies, the normally flaky Kirsten Dunst throws down a more-than-decent performance in this cheerleading extravaganza. Was it the bevy of nubile chicks flashing their undies? Or the non-appearance of Freddie's puppy face? Whatever it was, "Bring It On" brought it.

Most Hyped Movie That Really Doesn't Say Much When You Think About It

"Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon." Hmmm. Round up some Asians, make them fly around, and call it art. The only thing epic about this "masterpiece" was the boredom I got while trying to sit through it. Mix in some dog-eating references and you've set a stereotype back by at least a century.

Movie With The Most Foreboding Title

"Loser." Has anyone ever seen this movie? Anyone? Thought so. No one wanted to see Jason Biggs not drill baked goods and Mena Suvari not covered in rose petals.

Movie Sequels I Don't Wanna Hear About, Ever

"Autumn Catch."

"Harry Potter and the Spy Who Shagged Him."

"American Pie 9: We're All Out of Crisco!"

"Dude, Where's My Other Car?"

"I May Know What You'll Do Next Spring Break"

"Christmas H20"

"Even More Princess Diaries"

"Star Wars VI: The Attack of the Really Tired Clones"

"Jurassic Park 4: Kill Them Again!"

"She's Still All That"

(For the original version of this article and the full Pop Secret archive, log onto you.inq7.net.)

THIR13EN GHOSTS

The Lamest Trend In Movie Titles

Use of numbers as words. "Thir13en Ghosts," "Scr3am," "Murder by Num9ers," etc. It makes me mad to know that the pr--ks who came up with this garbage—who are also cackling somewhere in West Los Angeles—wrecked negated everything we learned from "Sesame Street." "Se7en" may look cool at first, but how the hell do you say it? Sesevenen? While we're at it, juxtaposing Independence Day with July 4 into "ID4" is the most messed-up idea to get the green light since the superfluous slash in "Face/Off."

BOOK OF SHADOWS
BLAIR WITCH 2

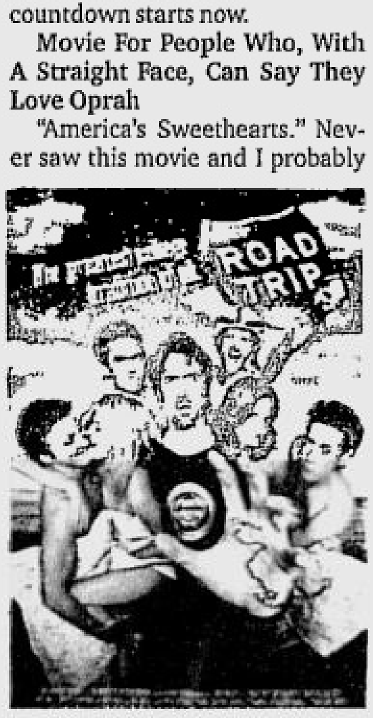
Sequel That Was Supposed To Make Buttloads But Made, Like, Twelve Bucks

"Blair Witch 2: Book of Shadows." The first installment made you blow chunks with its dizzying camera angles and Heather Donahue. The sequel just made you hurl with its gall.

MIRAMAX
split happens...
get over it
get dumped. get even.

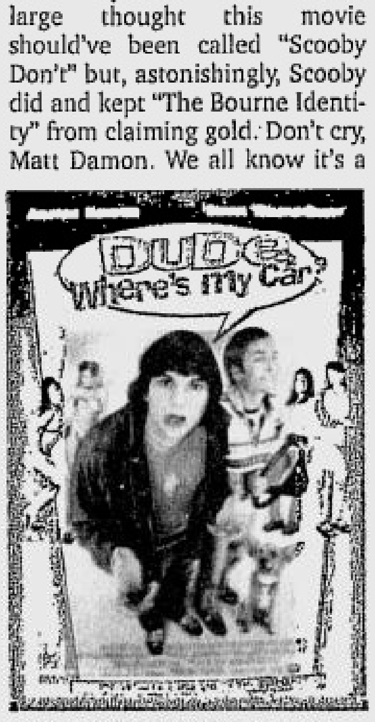
Movie That Thinks It's Still 1999

"Get Over It." The once-booming teen movie market has become a victim of changing times and reality entertainment. Sisqo's "feature film" non-triumph is bland and is chockfull of cute kids with questionable acting pedigree. Nice and passably entertaining, "Get Over It" is, however, three years late to the party.



Poor Man's American Pie

"Road Trip." This movie hoped to Xerox the pie-screwing dysfunctional success of "American Pie," but hit a dead end. It's really baffling to expect a cast to carry a teen theme on their obviously non-teen shoulders. Tom Green was simply too four-years-ago to pull off the gross-out comedy, and Seann William Scott was simply too talented to come up with yet another version of Stiffler.



Movie Title With The Best Use Of The Word "Dude"

"Dude, Where's My Car?" Legions of teens mildly chuckled at the fart jokes and bizarre alien subplot, prompting their parents to call this movie "hip." Pretty Ashton Kutcher and not-so-cute Seann William Scott are the Bill and Ted of the millennium and prove that opposite ends of the screen charisma flow chart can work together to bring home a moderate rental smash.

Movie With An Actor Who Does An Impression Of Himself From A Previous Movie

"Shrek." Mike Myers' downturn in originality was apparent in 2001's hit summer flick. His flatulent ogre was a retread of himself playing his father in "So I Married An Axe Murderer." It's probably a result of him taking on all the roles in the Austin Powers movies, which is another franchise that should be put to sleep. There is such a thing as too much range, you know.

Fire and eyes

OUT THE WINDOW

Tals Diaz

It took the prospect of losing everything to make me think hard about what it meant to have something to show for

THIS morning, my house caught fire.

I was dreaming that I had been shipwrecked with Johnny Depp and Orlando Bloom, and they were feeding me barbecued *pusit* when I was roused by the piercing shrill of the fire alarm and the banshee-like screams of the whole household. Ironically, *"Tubig! Tubig!"* instead of the logical, *"Sunog!"* There had been an accident involving our electrician, whose hand caught fire when a spark met with the flammable sealant that he was applying on the gutter. When he tried to extinguish it, the flames licked more objects around, set them ablaze and soon our house was engulfed in gray smoke.

There it was, one of my greatest fears happening right before my very eyes, the possibility that I could die, or even worse, come out of it alive but lose everything. That all-too famous water cooler query, "If your house was on fire, what would be the one thing you would save—other than yourself and your loved ones of course?" was being posited to me by the circumstance, at that very moment.

I thought of all the things I would risk my young life and fragile limbs to redeem from a fiery end: my autographed first-edition copy of Neil Gaiman's book, "Coraline" and all my Sandman graphic novels. My ratty old copy of "Catcher in the Rye." My cherished Herman Hesse novel, "Demian," bequeathed to me by my best friend. Okay fine, make that my entire bookshelf!

Also my precious DVD collection that includes a hard to find edition of "Labyrinth" and "Black Orpheus." All my bossa nova CDs. The photograph of me beside Jim Morrison's grave in Paris. My surfboard and my scuba gear. Eight volumes of my life's diaries ... oh wait, forget that, some of those bad memories can all go up in smoke for all I care.

I was freaking out, to say the least—not to mention I never realized that I knew so many cuss words in different dialects. I was in tears, not only because it also occurred to me that I was still wearing my old Winnie the Pooh nightgown (without a bra on), but also because I realized that, when faced with possibly life-and lifestyle-altering situations, I would failed the true litmus test of my personal values. All I could think about were material objects. What would tomorrow be like with only a crappy Winnie the Pooh duster and rubber slippers?

To make a long story short, everything turned out okay. Firemen and security personnel rushed in, in the nick of time, and with SWAT-team like panache and precision, extinguished the fire. I felt an overwhelming sympathy for those in history who had not been so lucky, people all over the world whose possessions and lifetimes of memories had been reduced to ashes and dust before they were.

When the smoke cleared, I drove over to the Lifeline Arrows clinic to seek treatment for our electrician's burned hand. I chanced upon framed newspaper clippings about true-life heroism in moments of disaster. Firemen, doctors, nurses, security guards and ordinary passersby who had saved victims of car accidents, bomb explosions and earthquakes. Why, these stories of real heroes are constantly eclipsed by show biz *chismis*!

That was when it hit me: how my dreams and ambitions were so vastly different from these anonymous, real-life professionals in the industry of saving lives. I admit, with all honesty, that I have fantasies of becoming rich and famous, and that my yardstick for success would be hob-nobbing with the likes of Matt Damon and De Niro. I would deem it a personal victory if I shared a drink of *aguardiente* in Mexico City with Gabriel Garcia Marquez. I dream of taking over Ian Wright's job as the next official Lonely Planeteer. I have brazenly announced to my friends many times that I plan to be a divemaster touring open-water divers around the Great Barrier Reef.

Never, ever in my life had I replied, when asked what I wanted to be when I grew up, that I would be a doctor, a fireman, a Red Cross volunteer, or even a teacher in a remote barangay Mindanao. My young dreams are so influenced and romanticized by watching way too many shows on the Discovery Travel and Adventure Channel, and reading way too much magic realist fiction.

It took a good dose of reality, like a fire under my seat, to make me assess my life and contemplate my personal dreams. It took the prospect of losing everything, to make me think hard about what it meant to have something to show for.

Maybe I really was burned.

How would I rate myself tomorrow, next week, 20 years from now? Would I find myself hanging out, post-lifetime, sipping tea on Cloud Nine with Mother Theresa, Buddha and Bob Hope? Or would I be taking turns shoveling crap by the River Styx in the Fifth Circle with Hitler, Uday and Qusay? Worse, would I be burning slowly in the purgatory of mediocrity, co-writing bad scripts with Shakespeare, who was punished for plagiarizing Marlowe?

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Dare I say now that there is no truth in the old saying that the bravest thing you can do is to walk out of a burning house with nothing in your hands? The bravest thing is to walk out of that fire with someone else's hand in yours.

(Email the author at: inca_orange@yahoo.com)

NICOLE KIDMAN
EWAN McGREGOR
MOULIN ROUGE
www.foxfilm.com.br

It's Not Bad, I Just Don't Get It

"Moulin Rouge." Apart from Disney flicks like "The Lion King," I have never been able to wrap my brain around song-and-dance movies. Especially song-and-dance movies that take themselves way too seriously and tunnel desperately for an Oscar nod. Should I be on Xanax to derive any pleasure from this film? Is the fantastic production design distracting me from the absence of any discernible plot?

RENEE ZELLWEGER HUGH GRANT COLIN FIRTH
BRIDGET JONES

Movie Role That Criminally Apes Courtney Cox Arquette's Fat Monica and Mike Myers' Fat Bastard

Renee Zellwegger's Bridget Jones. She said she had you at "Hello," now she wants you to pass the damn chocolate fondue! Renee porked up for the role of a lifetime and bagged a blockbuster. In the relatively uncompetitive UK movie market, that is.

BRENDAN FRASER
THE MUMMY RETURNS

A Sequel That Was Supposed To Suck But Somehow Managed Not To

"The Mummy Returns." Brendan Fraser doesn't really pop up when you hear the phrase "box-office hit," but with this part two of "The Mummy," you can at last forgive him for "Blast from The Past." Packed with more frantic obligatory chase scenes and snarky dialogue, "The Mummy Returns" turned out to be a bigger hit than its predecessor, spawning its very own spin-off, "The Scorpion King."

Murder on Cable TV

...or blood at the rental counter

Age against the machine

Gino de la Paz

LUCKILY, I escaped being part of the generation that grew up on shlocky '80s films, most of which involved the irritating Molly Ringwald and everyone else in "The Breakfast Club." Instead, I came of age in the late '90s, during which the teen movie craze involved the irritating Jennifer Love Hewitt and everyone else in "Can't Hardly Wait."

This, however, did not make me immune to my generation's take on crap.

Since I practically grew up on Dawson-friendly soundtracks and honed my pop culture acumen through sassy film dialogue, I have seen it fit to check on how movies have been after "10 Things I Hate About You." Before you turn on the tube or rush out to rent a movie, weave through what I've got here and avoid unnecessary bloodshed at the rental counter, or crying murder while watching HBO.

Movie That's Begging For Subtitles

"The One." Jet Li's attempt at A-list Hollywood status gets clocked straight where it hurts before it even gets a shot at over-produced fight fluff. Jacky Chan Lite, as I like to call Li, succeeds only in stunning us with his take on the English language. There is nothing else to focus on. Memo to Jet: Hire a speech coach.

Up And Coming Actress Who Never Up And Came

"Tara Reid." After her bedonka-donkas made their stellar debut in "Body Shots," is it any wonder that no one takes her thespian prowess seriously? JC Chasez's semi-clout doesn't help her either. She hasn't had a decent hit since the "American Pie" franchise. Her porn career countdown starts now.

Movie For People Who, With A Straight Face, Can Say They Love Oprah

"America's Sweethearts." Never saw this movie and I probably never will. Why? Because I think Oprah sucks ass and the words "romantic" and "comedy" should never be used together.

The Hugest Surprise Hit After Spy Kids

"Scooby Doo." The world at large thought this movie should've been called "Scooby Don't" but, astonishingly, Scooby did and kept "The Bourne Identity" from claiming gold. Don't cry, Matt Damon. We all know it's a fluke, but brace yourself for the inevitable sequel.

WIDESCREEN
Terror has multiplied
THIR13EN GHOSTS

The Lamest Trend In Movie Titles

Use of numbers as words. "Thir13en Ghosts," "Scr3am," "Murder by Num9ers," etc. It makes me mad to know that the pr--ks who came up with this garbage—who are also cackling somewhere in West Los Angeles—wrecked negated everything we learned from "Sesame Street." "Se7en" may look cool at first, but how the hell do you say it? Sesevenen? While we're at it, juxtaposing Independence Day with July 4 into "ID4" is the most messed-up idea to get the green light since the superfluous slash in "Face/Off."

BOOK OF SHADOWS
BLAIR WITCH 2

Sequel That Was Supposed To Make Buttloads But Made, Like, Twelve Bucks

"Blair Witch 2: Book of Shadows." The first installment made you blow chunks with its dizzying camera angles and Heather Donahue. The sequel just made you hurl with its gall.

Movie That Automatically Excludes Anyone With A Y-chromosome

"The Princess Diaries." Yeah, it's extremely funny to watch an ugly chick trip over stuff, but the Disney marketing radar bleeped out a significant part of the audience with this movie's girl-power kind-of message. I guess the film's intentions were noble. Yeah, and Hitler was a people person.

Lamest Dialogue In A Movie You've Probably Seen On HBO

"I don't like the sound of that sound."—Heather Graham as Judy Robinson in "Lost in Space."

Best Known Curse For Celebrities Who Try To Cross Over From Comedy TV To The Big Screen

"Saturday Night Live" effect. Tell me, has anyone from the cast of SNL (or "Friends," for that matter) ever made you storm the theaters? Why is that? Is it because it's unmistakably easier to take in a five-minute sketch than a full-length feature? Or is it because you can actually shut the TV off during the unfunny parts?

Best Teen Movie That Has Kirsten Dunst In It But, Mercifully, Not Freddie Prinze Jr.

"Bring It On." Transcending slight material and a cast of nobodies, the normally flaky Kirsten Dunst throws down a more-than-decent performance in this cheerleading extravaganza. Was it the bevy of nubile chicks flashing their undies? Or the non-appearance of Freddie's puppy face? Whatever it was, "Bring It On" brought it.

Most Hyped Movie That Really Doesn't Say Much When You Think About It

"Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon." Hmmm. Round up some Asians, make them fly around, and call it art. The only thing epic about this "masterpiece" was the boredom I got while trying to sit through it. Mix in some dog-eating references and you've set a stereotype back by at least a century.

Movie With The Most Foreboding Title

"Loser." Has anyone ever seen this movie? Anyone? Thought so. No one wanted to see Jason Biggs not drill baked goods and Mena Suvari not covered in rose petals.

Movie Sequels I Don't Wanna Hear About, Ever

"Autumn Catch."

"Harry Potter and the Spy Who Shagged Him."

"American Pie 9: We're All Out of Crisco!"

"Dude, Where's My Other Car?"

"I May Know What You'll Do Next Spring Break"

"Christmas H20"

"Even More Princess Diaries"

"Star Wars VI: The Attack of the Really Tired Clones"

"Jurassic Park 4: Kill Them Again!"

"She's Still All That"

(For the original version of this article and the full Pop Secret archive, log onto you.inq7.net.)

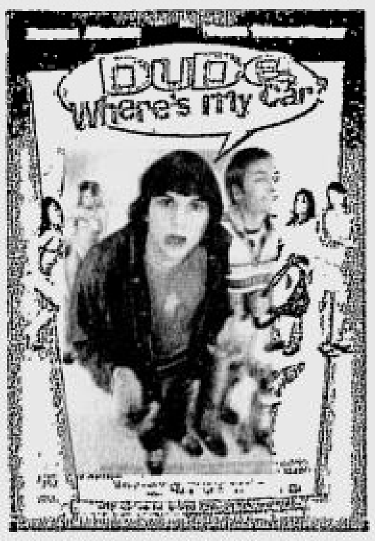
MIRAMAX
spit happens...
get over it
get dumped. get bumped. get even.

Movie That Thinks It's Still 1999

"Get Over It." The once-booming teen movie market has become a victim of changing times and reality entertainment. Sisqo's "feature film" non-triumph is bland and is chockfull of cute kids with questionable acting pedigree. Nice and passably entertaining, "Get Over It" is, however, three years late to the party.

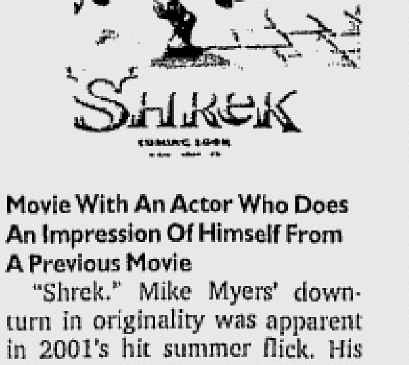
Poor Man's American Pie

"Road Trip." This movie hoped to Xerox the pie-screwing dysfunctional success of "American Pie," but hit a dead end. It's really baffling to expect a cast to carry a teen theme on their obviously non-teen shoulders. Tom Green was simply too four-years-ago to pull off the gross-out comedy, and Seann William Scott was simply too talented to come up with yet another version of Stiffler.


Dude, Where's My Car?

Movie Title With The Best Use Of The Word "Dude"

"Dude, Where's My Car?" Legions of teens mildly chuckled at the fart jokes and bizarre alien subplot, prompting their parents to call this movie "hip." Pretty Ashton Kutcher and not-so-cute Seann William Scott are the Bill and Ted of the millennium and prove that opposite ends of the screen charisma flow chart can work together to bring home a moderate rental smash.



Movie With An Actor Who Does An Impression Of Himself From A Previous Movie

"Shrek." Mike Myers' downturn in originality was apparent in 2001's hit summer flick. His flatulent ogre was a retread of himself playing his father in "So I Married An Axe Murderer." It's probably a result of him taking on all the roles in the Austin Powers movies, which is another franchise that should be put to sleep. There is such a thing as too much range, you know.

Fire and eyes

OUT THE WINDOW

Tals Diaz

It took the prospect of losing everything to make me think hard about what it meant to have something to show for

THIS morning, my house caught fire.

I was dreaming that I had been shipwrecked with Johnny Depp and Orlando Bloom, and they were feeding me barbecued *pusit* when I was roused by the piercing shrill of the fire alarm and the banshee-like screams of the whole household. Ironically, *"Tubig! Tubig!"* instead of the logical, *"Sunog!"* There had been an accident involving our electrician, whose hand caught fire when a spark met with the flammable sealant that he was applying on the gutter. When he tried to extinguish it, the flames licked more objects around, set them ablaze and soon our house was engulfed in gray smoke.

There it was, one of my greatest fears happening right before my very eyes, the possibility that I could die, or even worse, come out of it alive but lose everything. That all-too famous water cooler query, "If your house was on fire, what would be the one thing you would save—other than yourself and your loved ones of course?" was being posited to me by the circumstance, at that very moment.

I thought of all the things I would risk my young life and fragile limbs to redeem from a fiery end: my autographed first-edition copy of Neil Gaiman's book, "Coraline" and all my Sandman graphic novels. My ratty old copy of "Catcher in the Rye." My cherished Herman Hesse novel, "Demian," bequeathed to me by my best friend. Okay fine, make that my entire bookshelf!

Also my precious DVD collection that includes a hard to find edition of "Labyrinth" and "Black Orpheus." All my bossa nova CDs. The photograph of me beside Jim Morrison's grave in Paris. My surfboard and my scuba gear. Eight volumes of my life's diaries ... oh wait, forget that, some of those bad memories can all go up in smoke for all I care.

I was freaking out, to say the least—not to mention I never realized that I knew so many cuss words in different dialects. I was in tears, not only because it also occurred to me that I was still wearing my old Winnie the Pooh nightgown (without a bra on), but also because I realized that, when faced with possibly life-and lifestyle-altering situations, I would failed the true litmus test of my personal values. All I could think about were material objects. What would tomorrow be like with only a crappy Winnie the Pooh duster and rubber slippers?

To make a long story short, everything turned out okay. Firemen and security personnel rushed in, in the nick of time, and with SWAT-team like panache and precision, extinguished the fire. I felt an overwhelming sympathy for those in history who had not been so lucky, people all over the world whose possessions and lifetimes of memories had been reduced to ashes and dust before they were.

When the smoke cleared, I drove over to the Lifeline Arrows clinic to seek treatment for our electrician's burned hand. I chanced upon framed newspaper clippings about true-life heroism in moments of disaster. Firemen, doctors, nurses, security guards and ordinary passersby who had saved victims of car accidents, bomb explosions and earthquakes. Why, these stories of real heroes are constantly eclipsed by show biz *chismis*!

That was when it hit me: how my dreams and ambitions were so vastly different from these anonymous, real-life professionals in the industry of saving lives. I admit, with all honesty, that I have fantasies of becoming rich and famous, and that my yardstick for success would be hob-nobbing with the likes of Matt Damon and De Niro. I would deem it a personal victory if I shared a drink of *aguardiente* in Mexico City with Gabriel Garcia Marquez. I dream of taking over Ian Wright's job as the next official Lonely Planeteer. I have brazenly announced to my friends many times that I plan to be a divemaster touring open-water divers around the Great Barrier Reef.

Never, ever in my life had I replied, when asked what I wanted to be when I grew up, that I would be a doctor, a fireman, a Red Cross volunteer, or even a teacher in a remote barangay Mindanao. My young dreams are so influenced and romanticized by watching way too many shows on the Discovery Travel and Adventure Channel, and reading way too much magic realist fiction.

It took a good dose of reality, like a fire under my seat, to make me assess my life and contemplate my personal dreams. It took the prospect of losing everything, to make me think hard about what it meant to have something to show for.

Maybe I really was burned.

How would I rate myself tomorrow, next week, 20 years from now? Would I find myself hanging out, post-lifetime, sipping tea on Cloud Nine with Mother Theresa, Buddha and Bob Hope? Or would I be taking turns shoveling crap by the River Styx in the Fifth Circle with Hitler, Uday and Qusay? Worse, would I be burning slowly in the purgatory of mediocrity, co-writing bad scripts with Shakespeare, who was punished for plagiarizing Marlowe?

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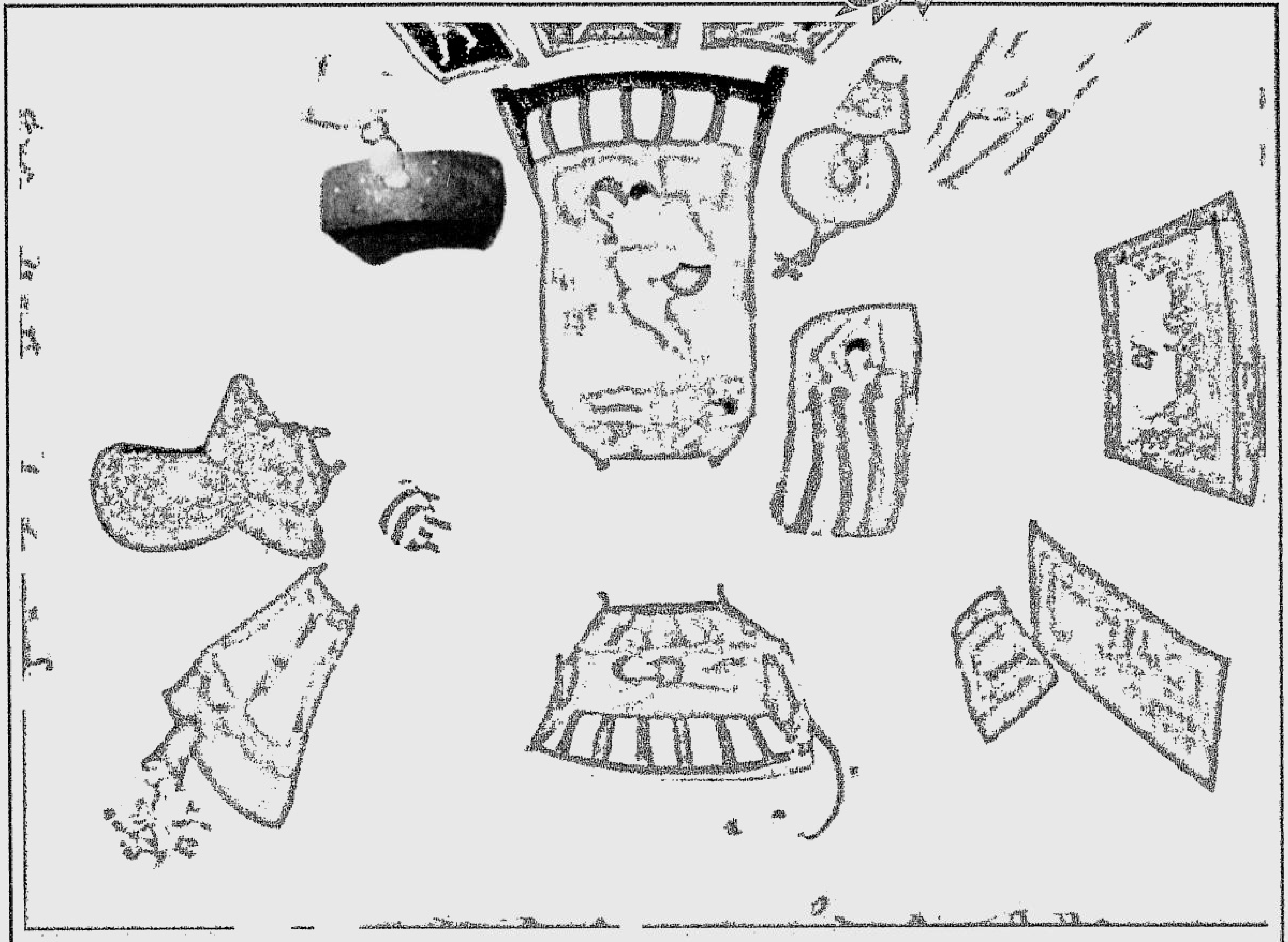


INSPIRATION SANDWICH

The art and wit of Norman Crisologo

Interview by Ovvian Castrillo

SOME people describe Norman Crisologo's work as naïve, but the man is far from it. While he possesses the childlike characteristics of wonderment and vibrance, his wit and mischief belie naïveté. What are readily apparent as common between the man and his work are three inclinations: life is vibrant, color is paramount, and the pun is intended.

Do you paint from the heart or from the mind?

Basically, a bit of both... colors come from the heart. The situations come from the mind.

Describe your own work.

Naïve, which is a contradiction because my work could be naughty. For instance, I use sexual concepts in a subtle way.

Style, or substance?

Style over substance, form before function. I am more interested in making paintings that will make people smile. I suppose it could be described as a bit myopic, since my work is mostly about personal concerns and relationships—the opposite of social realism.

Are you influenced by your travels?

Yes. But my wife and I choose destinations based on color. We like countries known for vibrant colors, like Guatemala or India. I am guided more by color than by subject or idea.

Do you collect anything?

Old scooters, tin toys, '50s furniture and folk art.

Is your work part of your daily life?

I don't paint daily, but the subjects and the style of my paintings are influenced by what I am exposed to in daily life—my wife, fashion... The "age" of a painting, for instance, could be gleaned from the clothes that the subject wears.

What other forms of expression pull you?

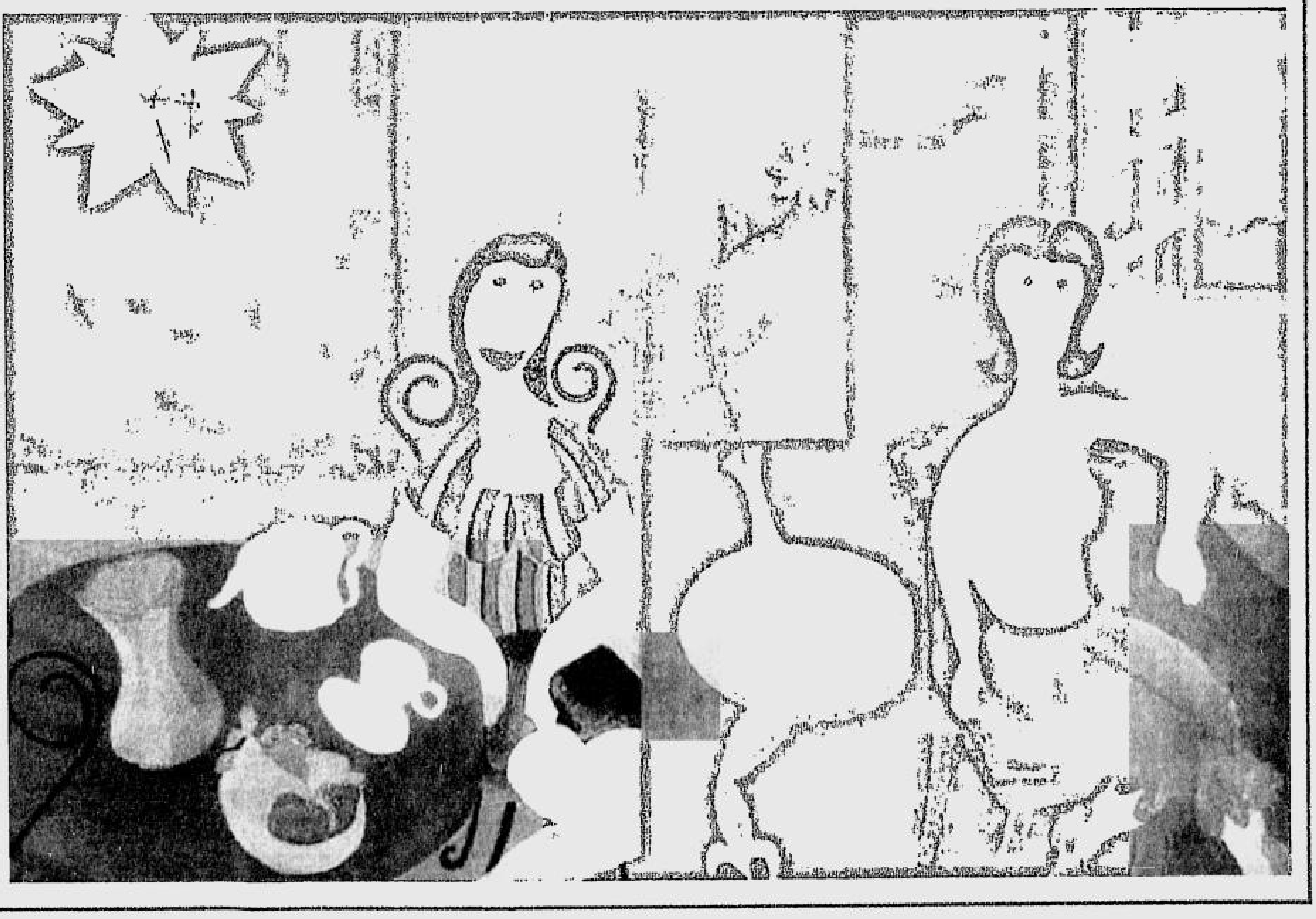
Decorating...interiors. A lot of people say my home is like my paintings.

Are you influenced by a specific genre?

Not a particular genre, but it's difficult these days. I mean, people read all the books...so, subconsciously you may be influenced by something you have seen or read.

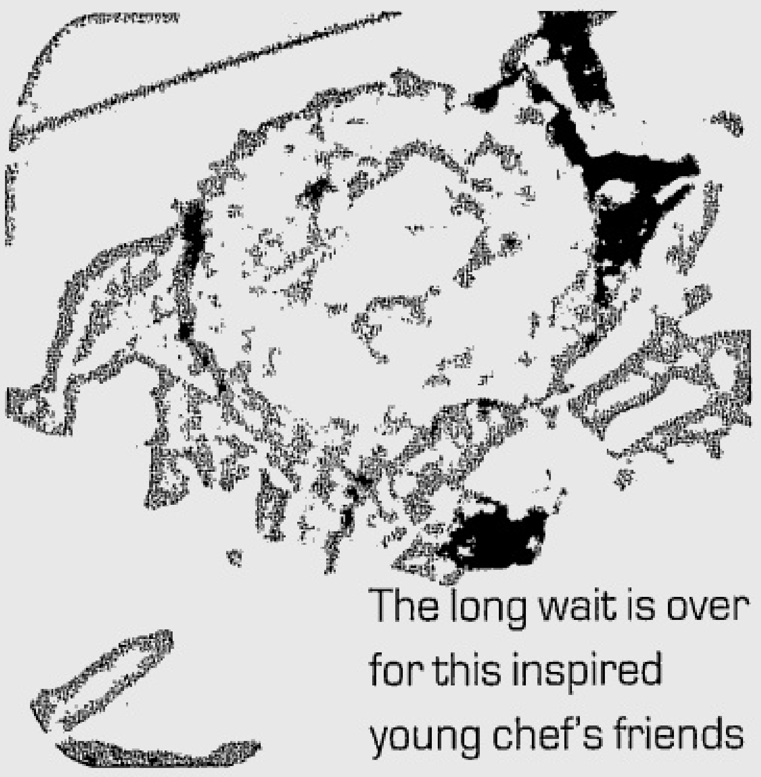
When is your next show?

I don't have a show planned at the moment, but maybe later this year or early next year. I am thinking of doing some mixed media work.



Tina *arrives*

By Ovvian Castrillo
Contributor



UNI Risotto

The long wait is over for this inspired young chef's friends and admirers

FRIENDS eagerly looked forward to Tina Pamintuan's arrival from Le Cordon Bleu in London. She was missed not only for her fun-loving lifestyle and stimulating personality; everyone who had experienced Tina's cooking waited to sample her work after this step to further hone her talent.

I remember meeting Tina for the first time over dinner. She took slow bites, relishing each mouthful, possibly discerning the flavors. She declared, passionately, that her dish lacked lemongrass. This made the event memorable for me, and was the reason I was not surprised to discover that she had gone to Le Cordon Bleu. She had given me the impression that she knew—and loved—food, although her waist line never showed it.

CHICKEN Liver Lasagna

Thus I grabbed the chance to join friends Kara Tolentino, "Scrambled Edge" Pamute, and event designer Miguel Rosales for dinner at Restaurant 12 in Greenbelt 2, where Tina is currently guest chef. The evening we went, I kept my eyes open, my mind clear, and my taste buds ready. I knew I was in for a feast.

Restaurant 12 was the perfect setting for such an evening. In a modern minimalist motif, the place imbibes character from the people in it. That evening, the dining hall was occupied mostly by Tina's friends, so the atmosphere was light and amiable.

There was a bit of a wait, as expected when food is cooked fresh. It helped that the kitchen was within view, assuring diners that the flurry was non-stop, and that "someone" was working on each meal. The open kitchen was also a good chance to see Tina in action. Having exchanged her designer duds for a chef's uniform, Tina was no less glamorous. She was in her element.

I started dinner with soup, the one described as a "veloute of mushroom and chestnuts, garnished with meat strips." It was neither runny nor too thick, and I liked it immensely. As much as the consistency, the color made it appetizing, too. But it was the lightly smoked, nutty favor that I really enjoyed.

Next came my lasagna—baked chicken fillet pieces on layers of flat noodles, with chicken liver and mushroom pâté, slowly cooked chunky tomatoes and creamy mornay sauce, drizzled with olive oil. Extraordinary in both appearance and flavors.

Naturally, our party of four shunned etiquette for the evening and picked from each other's plates.

The prettily plated sea urchin risotto was light, yet tasty. Surprisingly, it was quite filling as well. The salmon, almond-crusted on top of a puree of white bean and garlic mash, with beurre noisette and mustard sauce, was tender and moist.

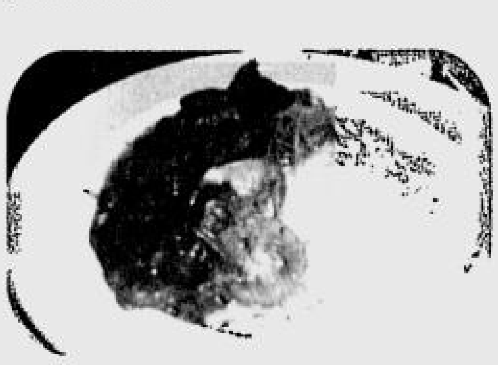
I daresay the dish called sautéed bread crumbles was educational, inventive and inspired: medallions of veal sweetbreads served with shitake mushrooms, asparagus and black truffle, and glazed with chocolate sauce.

The rib-eye stroganoff with buttered vegetables, chicken rice, fine beans, mushrooms and courgettes was served in a hearty plateful, and the best part was, the garnishing did not mask the rich beef taste.

We capped the meal with healthy portions of strawberry granita served in martini glasses.

Finally, the wait is over. Tina Pamintuan has not just come home, she has most certainly arrived.

MIG'S Salmon



EDGE'S Rib-eye

VEAL With Chocolate Sauce

LOSE YOURSELF in your MUSIC WITHOUT LOSING TOUCH.
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NOKIA
NOKIA
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- The first mobile music player with True Tones
- Store up to two hours of your favorite music
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Singapore National Day

9 August 2003

38th National Day Message by H.E Lim Kheng Hua

We celebrate today the 38th anniversary of Singapore's independence. During these 38 years, we have been through good and bad times. Despite some tough going in recent years, Singapore has done reasonably well. Earlier this year, we had to cope with SARS and the slowing global economy. But happily, SARS has been contained, and the indications are that the Singapore economy is slowly but surely picking up.

As we celebrate our National Day, we are mindful that this special occasion in Singapore is shared with friends from around the world, including the many Filipino professionals, workers and students both here and in Singapore. This year, we pay special tribute to the many heroes in our fight against SARS, in particular, the Filipino nurses and health professionals who contributed significantly to the overall effort. They pitched when it counted, and many of them even volunteered to pull extra shifts. To these heroes, Maraming Salamat!

Singapore enjoys excellent ties with the Philippines. This year marks the 34th anniversary of diplomatic relations between Singapore and the Philippines. Bilateral exchanges, both official and private, have grown steadily over the years. The Singapore-Philippine partnership is stronger and more comprehensive than ever. Bilateral economic co-operation has strengthened, and Singapore is one of the top investors in the Philippines, as well as a key trading partner.

Bilateral cooperation has also grown in other areas, including culture and people-to-people exchanges. Cultural exchanges between our artists, singers and musicians are flourishing. Singapore's pop sensation, Tanya Chua, performed in Manila in February in support of the Philippines' National Arts Month. A top Singapore sculptor, Baet Yeok Kuan, took part in a three-week long Arts Residency Programme at the University of the Philippines' College of Fine Arts, working with the students and helping them improve their skills and to hone their talent. Filipino artistes have also been visiting Singapore. Earlier this year, Lani Misalucha performed at a charity concert in Singapore in aid of our Community Chest.

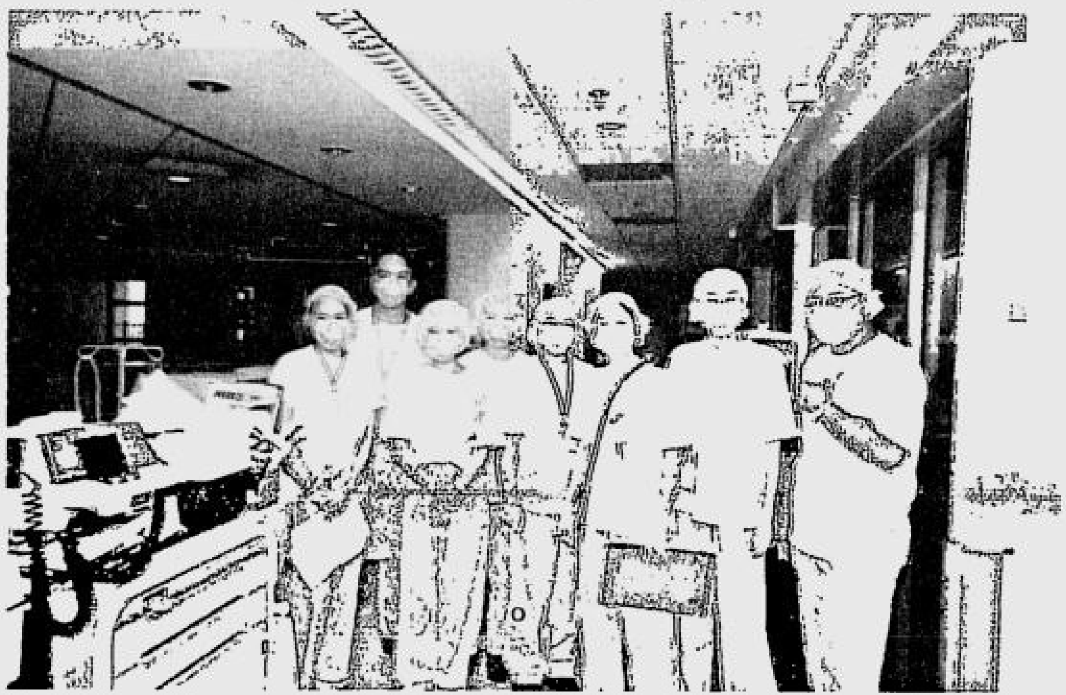
Happily, people-to-people exchanges are likewise thriving. In keeping with Singapore's firm belief in human resource development, we continue to offer a wide array of scholarships and technical cooperation awards for Filipino students and civil servants to pursue their education and training in Singapore. Since the inception of the Singapore Cooperation Programme, over a thousand Philippine civil servants have received training in Singapore in a variety of areas. Our hope is that the scholars and awardees will use their newly acquired knowledge and skills to make a positive contribution to the Philippines upon their return.

Singapore and the Philippines are close neighbours and partners in the region. As founding members of ASEAN, we share many common interests, and have co-operated on many issues. One area where we have enjoyed particularly close co-operation is in the fight against international terrorism. Let us work together for a better future for our peoples, and also for a stronger, more integrated ASEAN.

May I invite all our Filipino friends to join Singaporeans in celebrating Singapore's National Day. Majulah Singapura! Mabuhay!

Heroes in the Fight Against SARS

31 May 2003 was a red-letter day for all Singaporeans. On that day, Singapore joined the Philippines and Vietnam in the World Health Organisation (WHO) list of countries which have successfully contained the spread of SARS. Like our Filipino friends who had celebrated the occasion a fortnight earlier, Singaporeans, too, rejoiced that the national effort to contain SARS had succeeded. Singaporeans looked forward to turning the page on this painful experience that has touched the lives of practically everyone living in Singapore.



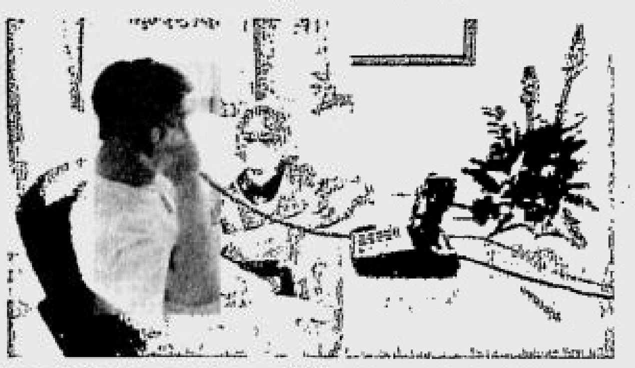
Singaporean and Filipino nurses, Heroes in the Fight Against SARS

SARS was a major crisis for Singapore. Its effects were devastating, in terms of lives tragically lost, and the repercussions on an economy that was just pulling out of a recession. The initial gloom and fear hanging over our people also placed a strain on our social bonds. For a while, Singapore and the international community were literally in a life-and-death fight with a foe whose nature we could not understand. In the meantime, jobs were lost and tourist arrivals declined.

Thankfully, the indications in the couple of months that Singapore has been SARS-free suggest that the economy is on the road to recovery. Morale is high among Singaporeans, and socials bonds have been strengthened by the experience. Singapore's year-long effort to fundamentally review its strategies for economic growth and survival as a nation is also coming to a head as the government considers the recommendations of the "Remaking Singapore" Committee. Hopes are high that the post-SARS period may be just the right time for the country to chart a new course to meet the challenges of the 21st century.

In the meantime, Singaporeans are careful not to be carried away by the fact that we have overcome SARS. Singapore may have licked SARS for now, but unless it remains vigilant, it runs the risk of having SARS revisit our island nation. Stringent measures remain in our airport, schools, work places and public establishments to ensure that Singapore remains "cool". Young and old, men and women alike are doing their bit to make sure that if SARS come knocking again at its door, Singapore will be ready.

Despite the heartaches and problems caused by SARS, there is a silver lining to its experience. Singaporeans and those living in Singapore have come to recognise the heroism of our thousands of healthcare workers who serve on the frontline in the fight against SARS. Whether they are doctors, nurses, technicians or other support staff, they risked their lives daily during those difficult months to bring relief and render care to the afflicted.



Particularly striking were the many foreign healthcare workers who battled bravely alongside their Singaporean colleagues when SARS hit the country in March. Without flinching, they took care of SARS patients and comforted them. Many even volunteered to pull extra shifts. Among them are the many Filipino nurses who toiled bravely alongside their Singaporean colleagues. Without their invaluable contribution, the fight against SARS would have been an even more uphill task.

Two of the Filipino nurses in Singapore hospitals describe their role in the country's fight against a new enemy that caught both victims and healthcare workers unaware.

Ms Deanna Santos Buno,
Staff Nurse
Tan Tock Seng Hospital

Ms Buno's first experience with SARS was as a SARS suspect who was isolated for observation. She had developed a fever and was admitted to the Communicable Diseases Centre (CDC) for observation for a day.

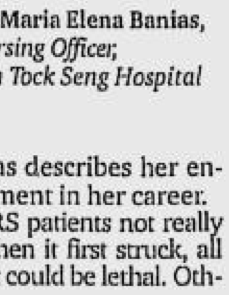
In that short period, Ms Buno experienced all the sadness and fears of one who was living away from her family and might be suffering from SARS. She thought of her husband and year-old baby and felt even worse. As it turned out, she was suffering from flu and was discharged.

"As the days went by, I forgot the fear as I threw myself into the task of taking care of SARS patients," she said. "I just felt I had to be there to help my colleagues. I did not see myself as a foreigner working here but as a nurse in the Intensive Care Unit. The differences were not there. We all worked as one. It was a very good feeling."

My family back in the Philippines was telling me to take no-pay leave and go home. But I never gave a second thought to that. I really wanted to stay here. About a fortnight after the outbreak, I was very confident that the protection we were using was enough. Most of the fear was gone."

Of her experience in nursing SARS patients, she said: "I have seen how SARS can affect a person. When my Filipino colleague came down with SARS, I could understand just how he felt. Putting myself in the patients' shoes was traumatic. It is a memory that I won't be able to forget and it made me feel really grateful that I was well."

I saw love expressed in a unique way. Social responsibility was there. The response from the public was so great. Everyone was playing a part."



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Nursing Officer,
Tan Tock Seng Hospital

Nursing officer Maria Elena Banias describes her encounter with SARS as a defining moment in her career.

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At this year's National Day celebrations, which falls on 9 August, healthcare workers in Singapore will again take centrestage.

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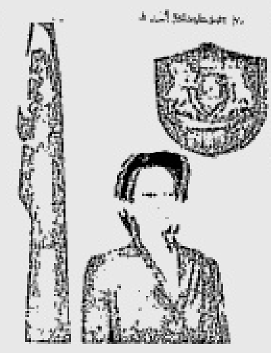
Deputy Prime Minister and Defence Minister Tony Tan and President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo at Malacañang Palace. DPM Tan visited the Philippines in December at the invitation of Defence Sec. Angelo Reyes. This visit underscores the deep and multi-faceted relations between Singapore and the Philippines.

Singapore National Day

9 August 2003

38th National Day Message by H.E Lim Kheng Hua



We celebrate today the 38th anniversary of Singapore's independence. During these 38 years, we have been through good and bad times. Despite some tough going in recent years, Singapore has done reasonably well. Earlier this year, we had to cope with SARS and the slowing global economy. But happily, SARS has been contained, and the indications are that the Singapore economy is slowly but surely picking up.

As we celebrate our National Day, we are mindful that this special occasion in Singapore is shared with friends from around the world, including the many Filipino professionals, workers and students both here and in Singapore. This year, we pay special tribute to the many heroes in our fight against SARS, in particular, the Filipino nurses and health professionals who contributed significantly to the overall effort. They pitched when it counted, and many of them even volunteered to pull extra shifts. To these heroes, Maraming Salamat!

Singapore enjoys excellent ties with the Philippines. This year marks the 34th anniversary of diplomatic relations between Singapore and the Philippines. Bilateral exchanges, both official and private, have grown steadily over the years. The Singapore-Philippine partnership is stronger and more comprehensive than ever. Bilateral economic co-operation has strengthened, and Singapore is one of the top investors in the Philippines, as well as a key trading partner.

Bilateral cooperation has also grown in other areas, including culture and people-to-people exchanges. Cultural exchanges between our artists, singers and musicians are flourishing. Singapore's pop sensation, Tanya Chua, performed in Manila in February in support of the Philippines' National Arts Month. A top Singapore sculptor, Baet Yeok Kuan, took part in a three-week long Arts Residency Programme at the University of the Philippines' College of Fine Arts, working with the students and helping them improve their skills and to hone their talent. Filipino artistes have also been visiting Singapore. Earlier this year, Lani Misalucha performed at a charity concert in Singapore in aid of our Community Chest.

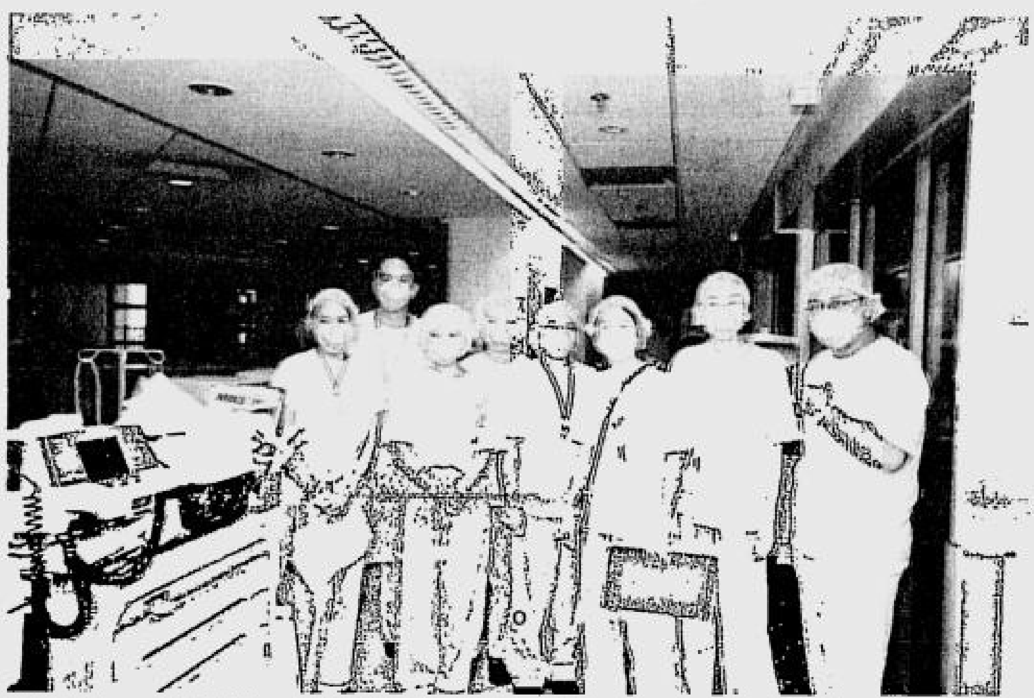
Happily, people-to-people exchanges are likewise thriving. In keeping with Singapore's firm belief in human resource development, we continue to offer a wide array of scholarships and technical cooperation awards for Filipino students and civil servants to pursue their education and training in Singapore. Since the inception of the Singapore Cooperation Programme, over a thousand Philippine civil servants have received training in Singapore in a variety of areas. Our hope is that the scholars and awardees will use their newly acquired knowledge and skills to make a positive contribution to the Philippines upon their return.

Singapore and the Philippines are close neighbours and partners in the region. As founding members of ASEAN, we share many common interests, and have co-operated on many issues. One area where we have enjoyed particularly close co-operation is in the fight against international terrorism. Let us work together for a better future for our peoples, and also for a stronger, more integrated ASEAN.

May I invite all our Filipino friends to join Singaporeans in celebrating Singapore's National Day. Majulah Singapura! Mabuhay!

Heroes in the Fight Against SARS

31 May 2003 was a red-letter day for all Singaporeans. On that day, Singapore joined the Philippines and Vietnam in the World Health Organisation (WHO) list of countries which have successfully contained the spread of SARS. Like our Filipino friends who had celebrated the occasion a fortnight earlier, Singaporeans, too, rejoiced that the national effort to contain SARS had succeeded. Singaporeans looked forward to turning the page on this painful experience that has touched the lives of practically everyone living in Singapore.



Singaporean and Filipino nurses, Heroes in the Fight Against SARS

SARS was a major crisis for Singapore. Its effects were devastating, in terms of lives tragically lost, and the repercussions on an economy that was just pulling out of a recession. The initial gloom and fear hanging over our people also placed a strain on our social bonds. For a while, Singapore and the international community were literally in a life-and-death fight with a foe whose nature we could not understand. In the meantime, jobs were lost and tourist arrivals declined.

Thankfully, the indications in the couple of months that Singapore has been SARS-free suggest that the economy is on the road to recovery. Morale is high among Singaporeans, and socials bonds have been strengthened by the experience. Singapore's year-long effort to fundamentally review its strategies for economic growth and survival as a nation is also coming to a head as the government considers the recommendations of the "Remaking Singapore" Committee. Hopes are high that the post-SARS period may be just the right time for the country to chart a new course to meet the challenges of the 21st century.

In the meantime, Singaporeans are careful not to be carried away by the fact that we have overcome SARS. Singapore may have licked SARS for now, but unless it remains vigilant, it runs the risk of having SARS revisit our island nation. Stringent measures remain in our airport, schools, work places and public establishments to ensure that Singapore remains "cool". Young and old, men and women alike are doing their bit to make sure that if SARS come knocking again at its door, Singapore will be ready.

Despite the heartaches and problems caused by SARS, there is a silver lining to its experience. Singaporeans and those living in Singapore have come to recognise the heroism of our thousands of healthcare workers who serve on the frontline in the fight against SARS. Whether they are doctors, nurses, technicians or other support staff, they risked their lives daily during those difficult months to bring relief and render care to the afflicted.

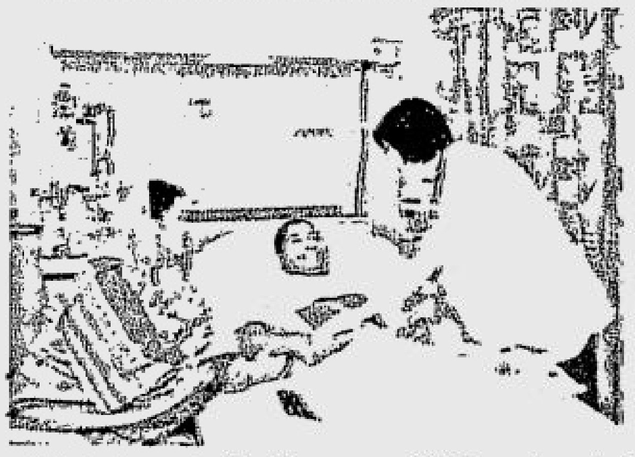
Particularly striking were the many foreign healthcare workers who battled bravely alongside their Singaporean colleagues when SARS hit the country in March. Without flinching, they took care of SARS patients and comforted them. Many even volunteered to pull extra shifts. Among them are the many Filipino nurses who toiled bravely alongside their Singaporean colleagues. Without their invaluable contribution, the fight against SARS would have been an even more uphill task.

Two of the Filipino nurses in Singapore hospitals describe their role in the country's fight against a new enemy that caught both victims and healthcare workers unaware.

Ms Deanna Santos Buno,
Staff Nurse
Tan Tock Seng Hospital

Ms Buno's first experience with SARS was as a SARS suspect who was isolated for observation. She had developed a fever and was admitted to the Communicable Diseases Centre (CDC) for observation for a day.

In that short period, Ms Buno experienced all the sadness and fears of one who was living away from her family and might be suffering from SARS. She thought of her husband and year-old baby and felt even worse. As it turned out, she was suffering from flu and was discharged.



"As the days went by, I forgot the fear as I threw myself into the task of taking care of SARS patients," she said. "I just felt I had to be there to help my colleagues. I did not see myself as a foreigner working here but as a nurse in the Intensive Care Unit. The differences were not there. We all worked as one. It was a very good feeling."

My family back in the Philippines was telling me to take no-pay leave and go home. But I never gave a second thought to that. I really wanted to stay here. About a fortnight after the outbreak, I was very confident that the protection we were using was enough. Most of the fear was gone."

Of her experience in nursing SARS patients, she said: "I have seen how SARS can affect a person. When my Filipino colleague came down with SARS, I could understand just how he felt. Putting myself in the patients' shoes was traumatic. It is a memory that I won't be able to forget and it made me feel really grateful that I was well."

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Singapore Cooperation Programme

THE SINGAPORE Cooperation Programme is a programme of technical assistance for fellow developing countries. It reflects Singapore's commitment to help fellow developing countries. When Singapore became independent in the mid-1960s, many countries had helped it. Singapore is grateful for this assistance. Now that it has achieved a measure of development, Singapore feels that it is only right that it should share its experience with others. However, Singapore is a small country and what it can do is limited. Nonetheless, within its constraints, Singapore is committed to helping fellow developing countries in a pragmatic, calibrated and tangible way.

As a country whose only resource is its people, Singapore believes that human resource development is vital for economic and social progress. In 1992, Singapore rationalised, consolidated and expanded on-going programmes under what we now call the Singapore Cooperation Programme. Technical assistance plans are formulated to meet the training needs of the recipient countries with Singapore's capacity to assist. Through the SCP, Singapore has sponsored training courses and study visits over 20,000 officials from 147 developing countries. Here in the Philippines, over 1,000 Filipinos have gone for training courses under the SCP. The SCP is managed by the Technical Cooperation Directorate of the Singapore Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the National Economic Development Agency (NEDA) in the Philippines.

Applications of Information Technology in Libraries for ASEAN Librarians

Ms Mylah R. Pedrano, College Librarian ,UP Visayas, Cebu College

Thirteen of us participants from seven ASEAN countries attended the Applications of Information Technology in Libraries for ASEAN Librarians course. The first-hand experience and the knowledge gained from this training has helped me to understand the importance of providing the right information to the right user. Libraries are service-oriented, and we librarians are expected to provide the best resources to every researcher. The training also helped us to move towards library digitisation. I have since come to appreciate the importance of knowledge governance and people connectivity as key foundations for a new knowledge-based society. I was particularly impressed by the widespread use of IT in libraries in Singapore!

We were lucky that as part of our programme, we were able to attend the Gala Dinner of the World Library Summit 2002 held at Swissotel The Stamford Convention Centre (the former Raffles City Convention Centre). The Congress of Southeast Asian Librarians (CONSAL) honoured several ASEAN nominees including Atty. Antonio Santos, Head Librarian of the University of the Philippines Diliman College of Law Library. Atty. Santos won an award for his significant contribution to Philippine librarianship.

Keeping in touch with the participants and the National Library Board staff by email is enriching because the experience in Singapore was not only about acquiring knowledge from the training sessions, but was also about making more friends. This, in turn has fostered closer relations amongst the participants. I would say that this is one of the main reasons the training course has become such a memorable one.

Judicial and Legal Reforms

I COUNT myself extremely lucky to have had the chance to participate in two training courses of the Singapore Co-operation Programme. Both were sponsored by the Singapore Ministry of Foreign Affairs and organised by the Singapore Subordinate Courts.

The first in December 2000 was on "Judicial and Legal Reforms - Investing in Justice in the New Economy". My second was a follow-through on "Revisiting Judicial and Legal Reforms - Reviewing and Reinventing Strategies" held in November 2002. Both courses introduced me to Singapore's excellent judicial and legal systems.

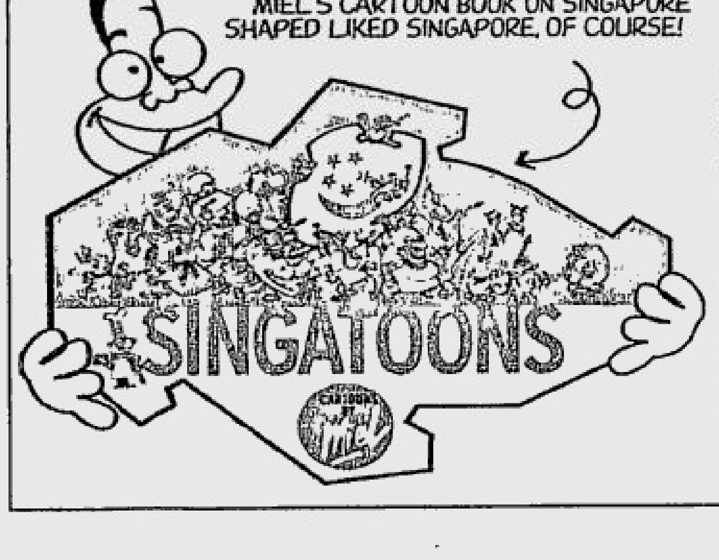
I was totally impressed at how far Singapore has gone towards modernising their legal and judicial systems. The E-court, I-court, video-link system, EFS, ATOMS, TICKS, SCRIMS, to cite a few, are innovative uses of technology that greatly enhance and facilitate the dispensation of justice in Singapore. With my real life experience with the systems, and the competent and dedicated men and women behind them, I am not surprised at all that Singapore's Legal System and Judiciary have been consistently ranked as the best in Asia and one of the best in the world (Subordinate Courts Annual Report 2002).

The Philippine Department of Justice (DOJ) has also embarked on several reform programmes designed to improve the administration of justice. DOJ has established a case-tracking system to enhance the monitoring of cases handled by prosecutors throughout the country.

It has also established a training programme for the implementors of the Katarungang Pambarangay Justice System, a form of alternative dispute resolution established by law to "de-clog" court dockets. In land management and registration of titles, the DOJ, through its Land Registration Authority, has started its computerisation project and may soon adopt a system of administrative registration of land titles.

The legal reforms in the DOJ are being pursued in earnest. But much of its success depends on availability of adequate funding, and more training which the Singapore Co-operation Programme can hopefully continue to provide. Mabuhay and more power to the SCP.

Atty. Rosalinda Vicente (seated, second from left) with the organisers, prison officials and course participants during a visit to Singapore Tanah Merah Prison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CARTOONS BY Miel

Miel Deng Coy, a Filipino, is currently working as a cartoonist for the Straits Times in Singapore

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The Republic of Singapore

as it proudly celebrates its

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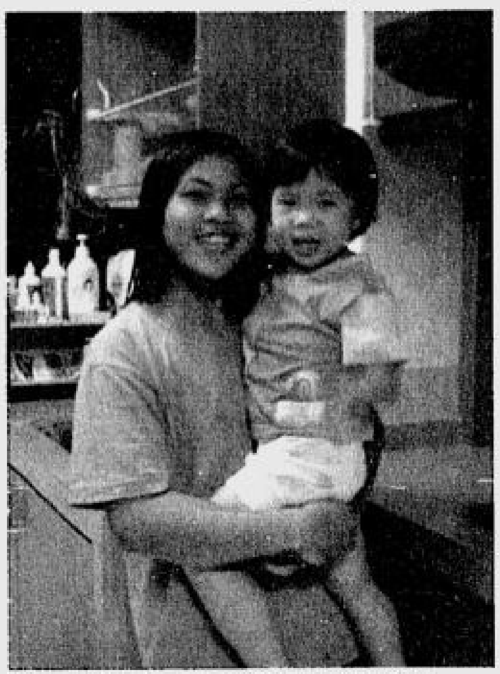
Chona Galvo adapts to life in Singapore



Chona in Singapore with her ward, Cici

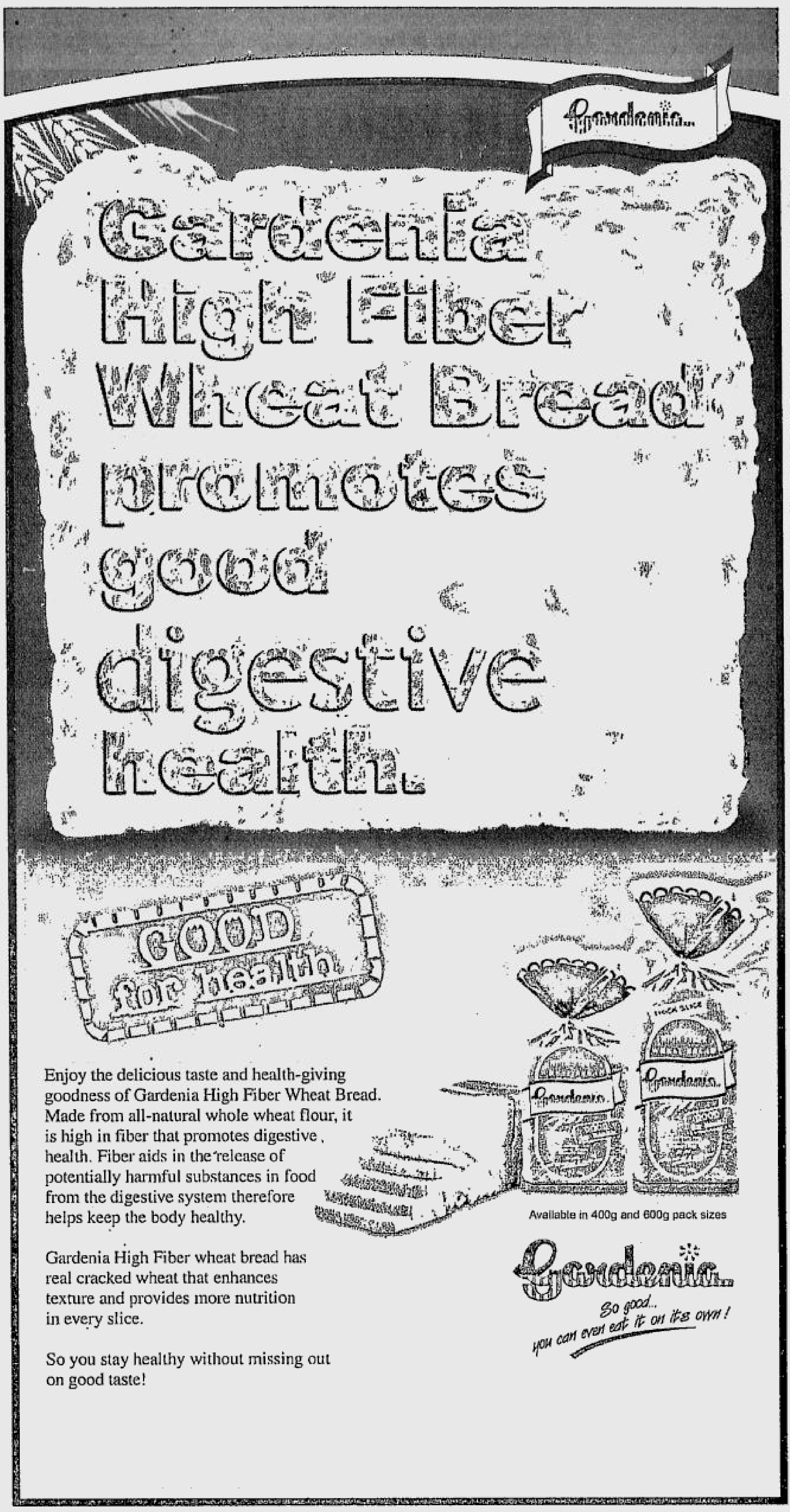
20-year old Chona, who hails from Agusan del Sur Province, has only been in Singapore since late last year. Chona, who is already comfortably settled in her new home, works for a typical Singaporean family living in a Condominium. She works mainly as a caregiver for four-year old Cici (pictured), although she does help out with the household chores.

When asked what she thought about Singapore, Chona was all praise for the public transport system and the feeling of personal safety whenever she goes around Singapore. "It is so convenient taking a bus and train (MRT). What struck me was that I could go out till 10pm at night and still feel safe! That's something I cannot do in my own province."

Chona has other reasons for feeling at home. According to her, "It's amazing that even with all the tall and modern buildings in Singapore, you can still find all the cooking you need here in the tiniest of shops. I can even find some of the rare spices from home over here."

Chona, who had never traveled prior outside of the Philippines, admitted that she was initially apprehensive about working and living overseas on her own, but she feels blessed to have employers who treat very much as a member of the family.

"They are kind and although I work the whole day, I have my break time everyday which I can do whatever I want, even take a swim. It so wonderful having a pool and having the weather to use it!" effused Chona.



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Fiber - For a Healthy Lifestyle

A lot has been published in the literature about the many benefits of fiber to the body. But what is fiber? Fiber is a natural constituent of plant cell walls and abounds in plant foods such as fruits, vegetables and grains. Fiber is an important part of a healthy diet. Dietary fiber may be classified as soluble and insoluble.

Soluble fiber (such as apple pectin) forms a gel when mixed with liquid and is known to have a cholesterol-lowering effect. Insoluble fiber (such as wheat bran), on the other hand passes through the intestinal tract largely intact because it is not digested in the human body.

Insoluble fiber is also known as "roughage" or "nature's broom" because it promotes the easy transit of waste materials through the large intestine, and therefore helps prevent constipation.Consequently, it prevents the potentially harmful substances in food from lingering in the intestines and coming in contact with the intestinal lining, which may be potential causes of colon cancer.

Fiber-rich foods are often low in fat and calories, promote satiety and therefore, weight loss, Fiber also binds lipids such as cholesterol and carries these out of the body. Thus reducing the risk of heart and artery disease. Dietary fiber has also beneficial effects on glucose and insulin modulation, hence it helps to manage diabetes. Foods made from whole grains, like high fiber wheat bread, are excellent sources of dietary fiber.

The Nutritionist- Dietitians Association of the Philippines (NDAP) maintains that a diet high in fiber, combined with plenty of fluid intake and exercise, can keep the body trim, healthy and productive.

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1.6L Sedan Club AT	₱ 899,000	₱ 449,500	₱ 37,459	₱ 24,973	₱ 18,730	₱ 12,487
1.6L Wagon Club MT	₱ 918,000	₱ 459,000	₱ 38,251	₱ 25,501	₱ 19,126	₱ 12,751
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Human Resource Development for Filipinos

The Singapore Scholarship

THE SINGAPORE Government awarded the Singapore Scholarship for the 2003 academic year to nine outstanding Filipino students. Singapore's Ambassador to the Philippines, Ms Lim Kheng Hua, presented the awards to six of the scholars in a ceremony witnessed by Vice- President Teofisto Guingona Jr in Makati City. The six were Miss Charlene Lesley Chan, Mr Brice Kevin Cu, Mr Reginald Reagan Lee, Mr Wayne Dell Manuel, Mr Dustin Jefferson Onghanseng, and Miss Diana Joyce Tee.

Three other scholars from Mindanao, Miss Ivy Gregorina Molina, Miss Korinna Espinosa and Mr Joseph Sorongon received their awards in a separate award ceremony held in Davao City.

In his address to the scholars at the Makati ceremony, Vice-President Guingona urged the scholars to "use your studies to gain the necessary knowledge and expertise to contribute solidly to the Philippines' economic emancipation". On her part, Ambassador Lim reminded the scholars that they were selected "because we believe you will make a difference, not just for yourselves but for your country. You will graduate, you will come home and you will make significant contributions to the Philippines".

This is in fact the fifth year running that the Singapore Scholarship is being offered by the Singapore Government. The initiative was launched at the 6th ASEAN Summit in Hanoi in December 1998, where Prime Minister Goh Chok Tong announced that Singapore would offer undergraduate scholarships to ASEAN students. The objective of the Singapore Scholarship is to help alleviate the problem of educating children in the ASEAN countries due to economic difficulties.

The nine scholarships this year, amounting to a total of 30 million pesos, are tenable at the National University of Singapore, Nanyang Technological University, and the Singapore Management University. Each award is valid for four years of tertiary study and covers tuition fees, return airfares, annual living allowances, and other expenditures.

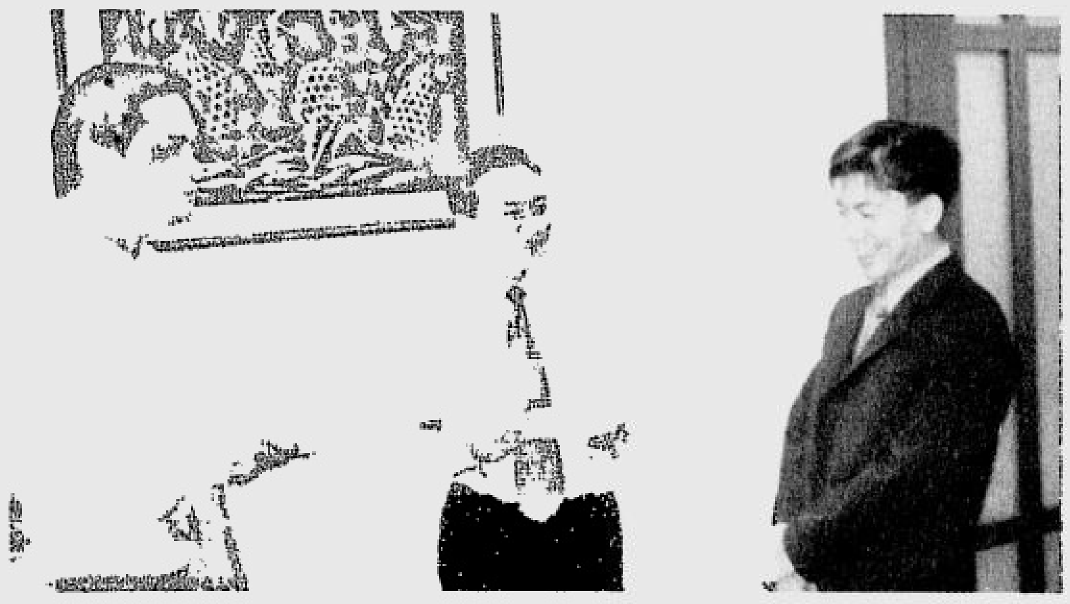
Scholars are selected on the basis of academic merit, leadership qualities and their potential to contribute to community development in their countries. They are expected to return to serve their home countries upon graduation.

SINGAP
H ARSHIP

Ambassador Lim Kheng Hua (front row, centre) with Vice President Teofisto Guingona at the Singapore Scholarship Awarding Ceremony in Makati City. The six awardees from Luzon and the and the Visayas are (from left to right): Dustin Jefferson Onghangseng, Reginald Reagan Lee, Brice Kevin Cu, Diana Joyce Tee, Charlene Lesley Chan and Wayne Del Manuel.

The Lee Kuan Yew Fellowship

(Master in Public Management)



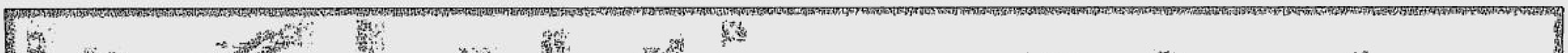
LEE KUAN YEW Fellows for 2002/2003 chat with First Secretary Walter Chia at the award ceremony at the Singapore Embassy. The fellows are (from left) Asec. Ernesto Bitonio of DOLE and Dr. Mario Villaverde of DOH.

THE SINGAPORE Government awarded this year's Lee Kuan Yew Fellowship to two outstanding Filipinos, Assistant Secretary Ernesto Bitonio from the Department of Labor and Employment, and Dr Mario Villaverde, Director from the Department of Health. The Fellowship, which is among the Singapore Government's most prized awards, is given to individuals who demonstrate exceptional leadership qualities, excellent academic ability, professional distinction and commitment to public service.

Singapore established the Lee Kuan Yew Fellowship to assist its Southeast Asian and Pacific neighbours to train and upgrade the quality of their public service managers. The aim is to help prepare senior civil servants to better conceive and implement public policy as they move into even higher leadership positions within their organisations. The Fellows are expected to gain a deeper understanding of the challenges and constraints of public policymaking in Southeast Asia. It is hoped that the Fellowship will contribute to the development of a core of senior civil servants in the Philippines who will acquire new perspectives about governance and enhanced capabilities to translate vision into action.

Recipients of the Fellowship, which is worth about 3 million pesos each, will join the year-long Master in Public Management (MPM) programme conducted jointly by the National University of Singapore and Harvard University. The MPM programme includes a seven-week stint at the Harvard University's John F. Kennedy School of Government, and a study visit to Washington, D.C.

The value of the Fellowship covers tuition fees, airfare, accommodation, monthly allowance, and medical and insurance coverage. It also covers airfare, full board and lodging, plus other approved fees at Harvard University and Washington, D.C.



We congratulate Singapore
on its 38th National Day!

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